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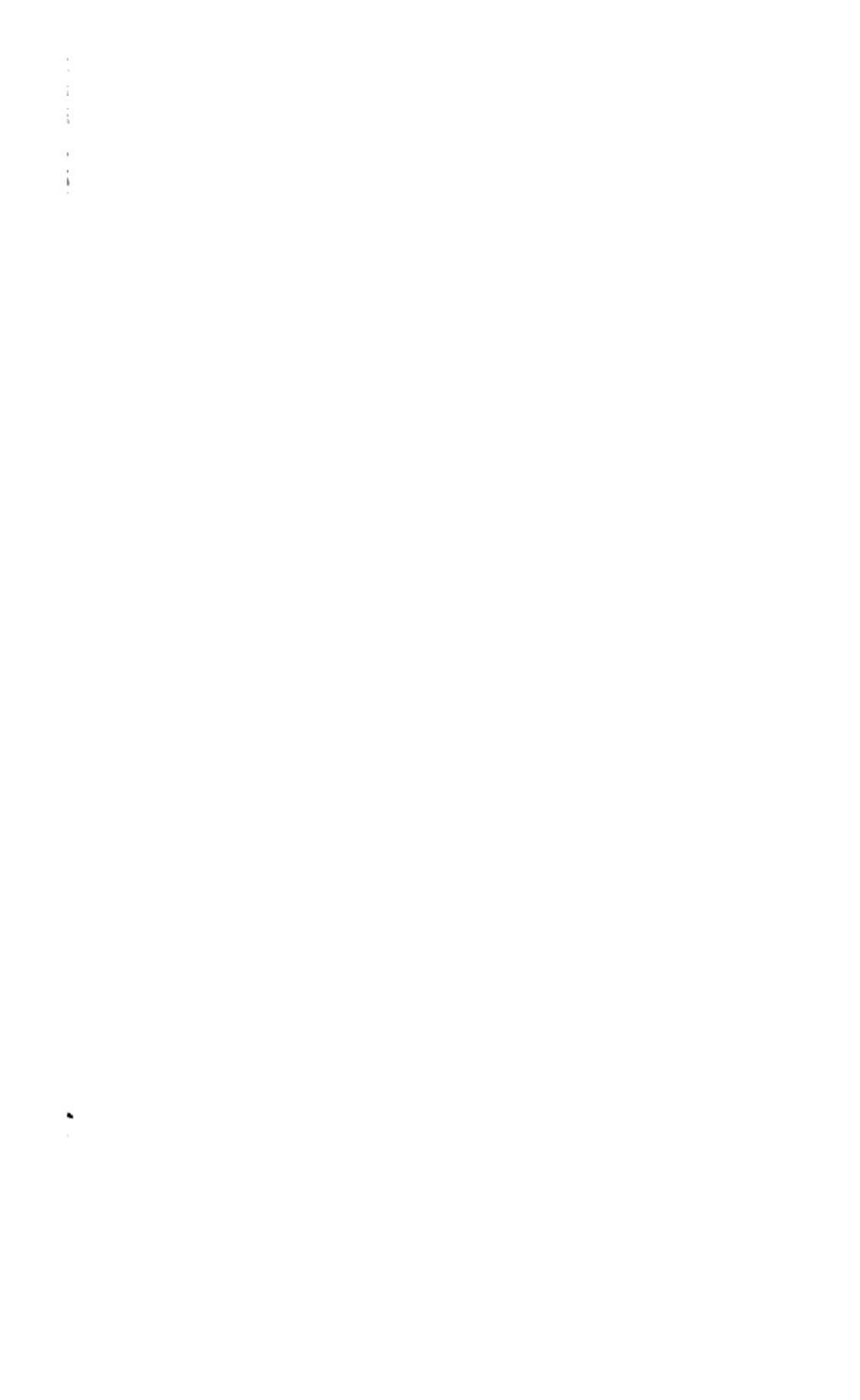
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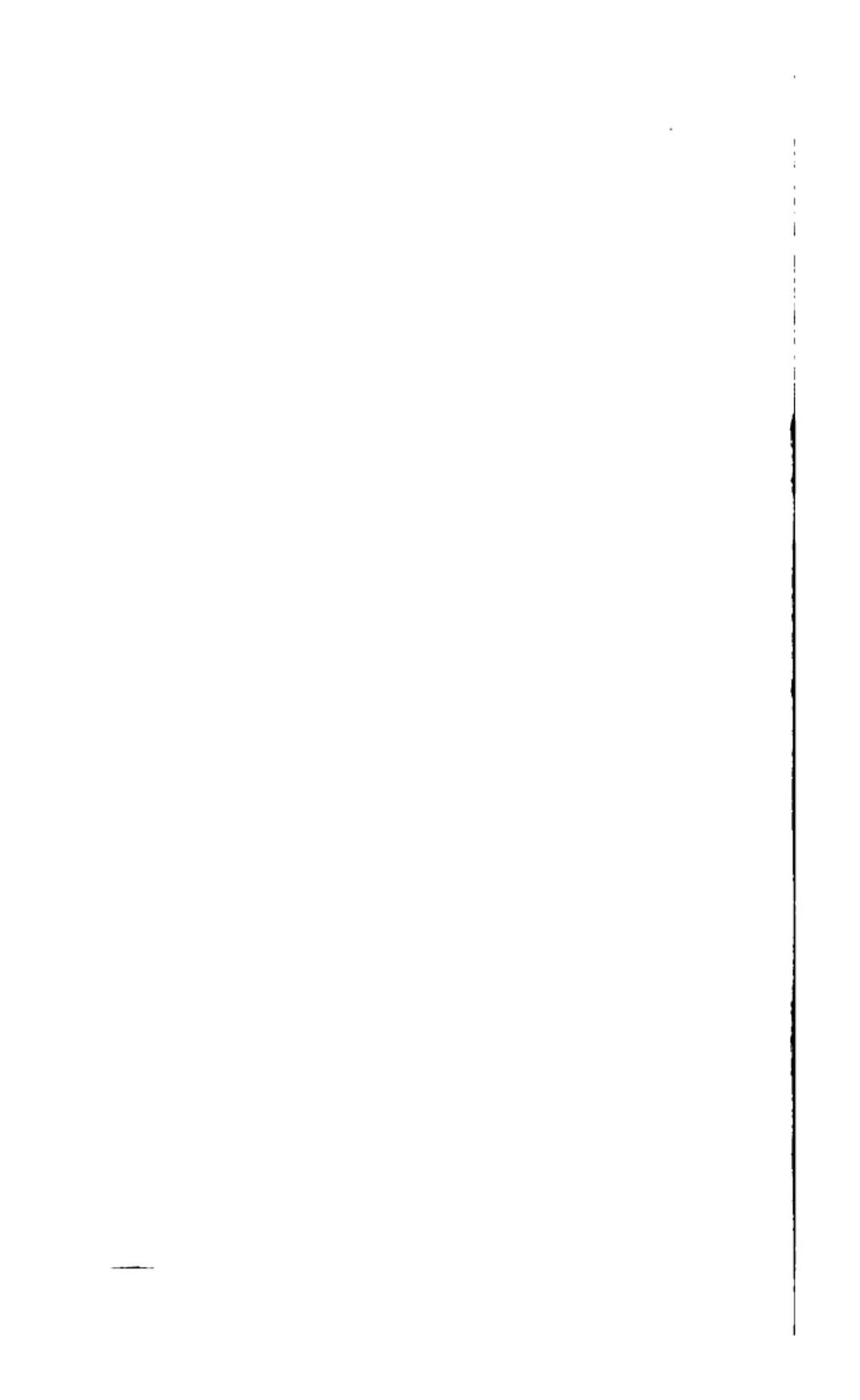
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THE
NEW AND COMPLETE
LETTER WRITER,

OR,
NEW ART OF POLITE CORRESPONDENCE:

CONTAINING A COURSE OF

INTERESTING ORIGINAL LETTERS,
ON THE MOST IMPORTANT, INSTRUCTIVE, AND ENTER-
TAINING SUBJECTS:

Which may serve as Copies for Indicting Letters on
the Various Occurrences in Life.

AND A SET OF COMPLIMENTARY CARDS,
Suited to the Various Occasions on which an extraor-
dinary degree of Politeness should be observed.

BY THE REV. THOMAS COOK, A. B.

And one of the Authors of the New Royal and
Universal Dictionary of Arts and Sciences
in England.

TO WHICH ARE ADDED,

Forms of Mortgages, Deeds, Bonds, Powers of Attorney, Indentures, &c. as they are now executed by Gentlemen of distinguished abilities in the Law in the United States,

Also,—The usual style of Address for the Principal Public Officers in the United States.

NEW-YORK:

PUBLISHED BY EVERET DUYCKINCK,
NO. 68 WATER-STREET.

.....
1817.

PREFACE.

THE great utility of Epistolary Writing is so well known, that the necessity of being acquainted with an art replete with such advantages is needless to insist upon. Those who are accomplished in it are too happy in their knowledge to need farther information concerning its excellence. And such as are unqualified to convey their sentiments to a friend, without the assistance of a third person, feel their deficiency so severely, that nothing need be said to convince them, it is their interest to become acquainted with what is so necessary and agreeable.

Had letters been known at the beginning of the world, Epistolary Writing would have been as old as love and friendship: for, as soon as they began to flourish, the verbal messenger was dropped, the language of the heart was committed to characters that faithfully preserved it, secrecy was maintained, and social intercourse rendered more free and agreeable. Some of the most ancient compositions were written in this manner, and the light of the gospel was delivered by the holy Apostles in the Epistolary way. The Romans were perfect masters of this art, as *Cicero's Letters* sufficiently evince; nor are the Moderns less sensible of its excellencies. Some of the finest French writers have built their fame upon Epistolary correspondence: and the English are at present so convinced of the advantages attending this method of conveying their sentiments, that it seems to have triumphed over almost every other species of composition; the Historian has adopted it; we have the Greek and Roman histories, as well as that of our nation, admirably executed in letters. Almost every thing didactic and perceptive, is delivered in this way; the Novelist finds it better adapted to his purpose than any other mode of writing. No great poet is without his familiar Epistle to his friend; and the Traveller seemed lost, till he found the method of conveying his intelligence in

Letters. To conclude; Letters are the life of trade, the fuel of love, the pleasure of friendship, the food of the politician, and the entertainment of the curious. To speak to those we love or esteem, is the greatest satisfaction we are capable of knowing, and the next is, being able to converse with them by letter.

DIRECTIONS FOR WRITING LETTERS.

It was a just observation of the honest Quaker, that, *If a man think twice before he speak, he'll speak twice the better for it.* With great propriety the above may be applied to all sorts of writing, particularly the epistolary. In letters from one relation to another, the different characters of the persons must be first considered: Thus a father in writing to a son will use a gentle authority: a son to a father will express a filial duty. And again, in friendship, the heart will dilate itself with an honest freedom; it will applaud with sincerity and censure with modest reluctance. In letters concerning trade, the subject matter will be constantly kept in view, and the greatest perspicuity and brevity observed by the different correspondents; and in like manner, these rules may be applied to all other subjects and conditions of life, viz. a comprehensive idea of the subject, and an unaffected simplicity, though modesty, in expression. Nothing more need be added, only, that a constant attention to the above for a few months, will soon convince the learner, that his time has not been spent in vain. Indeed, an assiduous attention to the study of any art, even the most difficult, will enable the learner to surmount every difficulty; and writing letters to his correspondents, becomes equally easy as speaking in company. And if he carefully avoid affectation, will enable him to write in the language of the present times; his thoughts will be clear, his sentiments judicious, and his language plain, easy, sensible, elegant, and suited to the nature of the subject. As letters are the copies of conversation, just consider what you would say to your friend if he was present, and write down the very words you would speak, which will render your epistle unaffected and intelligible.

THE
LETTER WRITER.

PART I.

LETTERS TO AND FROM DIFFERENT RELATIONS.

LETTER I.

On the respect and obedience due to parents.

DEAR BROTHER,

BESIDE the inclination that I have to write to you concerning every thing that happens to you here, I find it a duty. My mother tells me, that having now no father, I am to look upon you as one; I do not know whether it will be to my advantage or not; but of this I am sure, that I shall find in you all the indulgence, and none of the severity.

My mother gave me her commands when she parted from me, that I should consider you in this double light; she bade me not lose that respect which was due to your years, and more due to the care which she had desired you to take of me, in that familiarity we used to live together as acquaintance: I am sure I shall obey her. You may remember that she followed me to the stage, but you cannot know the reason: I suppose affection did not want its part: but there was something beside: she took that oppor-

tunity of giving me this command, being willing to say these things rather before strangers than yourself.

I hope I have not, brother, been bred up with so good a person as you, to be ignorant of that respect which is due to a parent. I should have obeyed the command had it been delivered in any manner; but I could see her hold up her handkerchief many times when she spoke to me. O, brother, every tear she shed has cost me a thousand! but do not speak of it to give her uneasiness; I only name it to you, to show how seriously I received her instructions: He that can disregard a parent's command, deserves nothing of that length of life which is promised to the obedient: but if there be any who can slight a mother's tears, the world ought to disown him.

I do assure you I am resolved to obey her perfectly, and I give you this account as an engagement to that obedience: Perhaps you will say, it is a first fruit of it; but however that be, you have it to reprove me withal, if ever I forget to obey you as a father, while I love you as a brother. I am,

With the most true affection and respect
Your obedient brother.

LETTER II.

From a young Gentleman to his Mother, during his Apprenticeship.

HONOUR'D MOTHER,

Your having retired to the country, has hindered me from writing to you as often as I could

Different Relations.

wish. Ever since I was bound to Mr. Anson, he has treated me with every sort of indulgence, and I have endeavoured to acquire the good will of all our customers. I know that you are so straitened in your circumstances, as not to be able to afford me pocket-money ; but I have the pleasure to tell you, that Mrs. Howard has taken care in that particular, and generously supplied me from time to time. In every part of my conduct I shall endeavour to act consistently with the principles of virtue, and am, with the utmost respect and duty,

Your affectionate son:

LETTER III.

From a young Gentleman, at a Boarding-school in the Country, to his Brother, an Apprentice in New-York.

DEAR CHARLES,

LITTLE master Billy Thompson is going to New-York to-morrow in the stage, and I have sent this by him to you. We are all well at school, and I have got as far as Ovid; I have likewise got through the rules of practice, of which I shall give you a better account when I come to town on the fourth of July. Dear brother, give my duty to papa and mamma, and tell them I long to see them; I pray for them and you every day; and I have read over the Complete Duty of Man, which my mamma gave me. I spend an hour every day in reading Dr. Goldsmith's Roman History. Pray Charles, send me some books, for I am very fond of reading, and a neat

Letters to and from

red pocket-book, and I shall do more for you when I leave school. I am your loving brother,

LETTER IV.

The Brother's Answer.

DEAR BROTHER,

I RECEIVED your kind letter, and am glad to hear you are well, as also of the progress you make in learning. I read your letter to your papa and mamma, and they are much pleased with it. Bill Thompson dines at our house to-morrow, and he will bring you this. Your mamma has sent you three dollars; and as you are so fond of books, I have sent you Rollin's Belles Letters. Mr. Austin, our priest, says, that although all sorts of history are useful, yet he thinks you should begin with that of your own country; and he has sent a present of Gordon's History of America. I have sent you the pocket-book and some other things, which you will find sealed up in the parcel. We all beg that you will continue to persevere as you have begun, in an uniform course of virtue. It will entitle you to the favour of God, be a pleasure to your parents, and turn out to your advantage at the last. I am, dear brother,

Your's affectionately,

LETTER V.

From an aged Lady in the Country, to her Niece in New-York, cautioning her against keeping Company with a Gentleman of bad Character.

DEAR NIECE,

THE sincere love and affection which I now have for your indulgent father, and ever had

Different Relations.

for your virtuous mother, when she was alive, together with the tender regard I have for your future happiness and welfare, have prevailed on me rather to inform you by letter than by word of mouth, concerning what I have heard of your unguarded conduct, and the too great freedoms you take with Mr. Lovelace. You have been seen with him at the Theatre, Columbia, Mount Vernon, and Vaux-hall Gardens. Don't imagine, niece, that I write this from a principle of ill nature, it is on purpose to save you from ruin; for, let me tell you, your familiarity with him gives me no small concern, as his character is extremely bad, and as he has acted in the most ungenerous manner to two or three virtuous young ladies of my acquaintance, who entertained too favourable an opinion of his honour. 'Tis possible, as you have no great fortune to expect, and he has an uncle from whom he expects a considerable estate, that you may be tempted to imagine his address an offer to your advantage; but that is greatly to be questioned; for I have heard that he is deep in debt, as also that he is privately engaged to a rich old widow in the Jerseys.—In short, my dear, he is a perfect libertine, and is ever boasting of favours from our weak sex, whose fondness and frailty are the constant topics of his railing and ridicule.—Let me prevail on you, dear niece, to avoid his company as you would that of a madman; for notwithstanding, I still hope you are strictly virtuous, yet your good name may be irreparably lost by such open acts of imprudence.

10 *Letters to and from Different Relations.*

I have no other motive but an unaffected zeal for your interest and welfare. I flatter myself you will not be offended with the liberty here taken, by

Your sincere friend and affectionate aunt,

LETTER VI.

The Young Lady's Answer.

HONoured MADAM,

I RECEIVED your letter, and when I consider your reasons for writing, I thankfully acknowledge you my friend. It is true, I have been at those public places you mention along with Mr. Lovelace, but was utterly ignorant of his real character. He did make me proposals of marriage, but I told him I would do nothing without my father's consent. He came to visit me this morning, when I told him that a regard for my reputation obliged me never to see him any more, nor even to correspond with him by letter, and you may depend on my adhering to that resolution. In the mean time I return you a thousand thanks for your friend's advice. I am sensible every young woman ought to be careful of her reputation, and studiously avoid the company of libertines. To convince you of my sincerity, I shall leave New-York in about six weeks, and will call to see you after I have been at my father's.

I am,

Honoured madam,

Your affectionate niece.

PART II.

ON BUSINESS.

LETTER VII.

From a young Man in the Country, to a Merchant in New-York, offering Correspondence.

SIR,

MY apprenticeship with Mr. Wilson being expired, during which I had proofs of your integrity in all your dealings with my worthy master; my parents have given me two hundred pounds to begin the world, which you know is not sufficient to carry on trade to any advantage: That I may be able to sell my goods as cheap as possible, I would choose to have them from the first hand, and likewise the usual time of credit. If it is agreeable to you, I hereby offer you my correspondence, not doubting but you will use me as well as you did Mr. Wilson, and you may depend on my punctuality with respect to payments.—My late master has no objection to my setting up, as it will not be in the least prejudicial to his business. I shall depend on your sending me the following order as soon and as cheap as possible, and am, sir;

Your humble servant.

LETTER VIII. *The Merchant's Answer.*

SIR,

Your's I received, and am extremely glad to hear that your parents have enabled you to open

a store for yourself. Your behaviour to your late master was such that it cannot fail of procuring you many customers. I have sent you the goods by the sloop Polly of Poughkeepsie, in twelve parcels, marked X I ; and I doubt not but you will be punctual in your returns, which will always enable me to serve you as low as possible, and with the best goods which I can procure. I heartily wish you success in business, and doubt not but you well know, that honesty and assiduity are the most likely means to insure it, and am,

Your obliged servant.

LETTER IX.

To a Correspondent, requesting the payment of a sum of Money.

SIR,

ALTHOUGH the balance of the account between us has been standing in my favour, yet I would not have applied to you at present, had not a very unexpected demand been made upon me for a very considerable sum, which, without your assistance, is not in my power to answer. When I have an opportunity of seeing you, I shall inform you of the nature of this demand, and the necessity of my discharging it. I hope you will excuse me this freedom, which nothing but a regard to my credit and family could oblige me to take. If it do not suit you to remit the whole, part will be thankfully received; by

Your humble servant.

LETTER X.
Answer.

SIR,

I have just received your's, and am sorry to hear of your affliction. That the account between us was not sooner settled, was owing to the failure of two principal creditors. I have just received a remittance from New-Brunswick, and am greatly pleased that it is in my power to answer the whole of your demand. The balance between us is two thousand dollars, for which I have sent inclosed an order on Mr. Cash, the banker. I hope you will surmount this and every other difficulty, and am

Your sincere well-wisher.

LETTER XI.

From a Merchant at St. Thomas's to a Brother in New-York: desiring him to sell some Goods and purchase others.

SIR,

ACCORDING to the agreement settled between us when I left America, I have sent by the Charming Sally, Captain Johnson, twelve bags of green coffee, marked A-Z, desiring you to dispose of them to the best advantage; they are warranted good, as I examined every parcel separately, before they were sent on board. You will receive an inclosed order for several different articles of American produce to be sent by the first ship sailing for this port. Let them be as good and cheap as possible you can procure, as they are much wanted at present.

I am, sir,

Your humble servant.

R.

LETTER XII.

The Answer.

SIR,

YOUR's I received, and the twelve bags marked A Z, were delivered at the custom-house. I immediately advertised them for sale in twelve different lots, but they were all purchased by an eminent merchant here, for which I have lodged in the Bank in your name. I have likewise shipped on board the Dispatch, Captain Harvey, the different articles which you ordered. They are in twenty bales, marked B M. I am told they are the best that can be had on the continent, and doubt not of their giving satisfaction.

I am sir, your humble servant.

LETTER XIII.

An urgent Demand of Payment.

MR. THOMPSON,

THE exigence of my affairs compels me thus importunately, nay, peremptorily, to write to you. Can you think it possible to carry on business in the manner you act by me? You know what promises you have made, and how from time to time, you have broken them. Can I therefore depend upon any new ones you make? If you use others as you do me, how can you think of carrying on business? If you do not, what must I think of the man, who deals worse by me than he does by others? If you think you can trespass more upon me than you can on others, that is a very bad compliment on my prudence, or your gratitude: for surely good usage should be entitled to the same in return.

know how to allow for disappointment as well as any man ; but can a man be disappointed for ever ? Trade is so dependent a thing, that it cannot be carried on without mutual punctuality. Does not the merchant expect it from me for these very goods I send you ? What end can it answer to give you two years credit, and then be at an uncertainty, for goods which I sell at a small profit, and have only six months credit for myself ? Indeed, sir, this will never do. I must be more punctually used by you, or else must deal as little punctually with others : And then what must be the consequence ? In short, sir, I expect a handsome payment by the next return, and security for the remainder ; as I am very loath to take any harsh measures, to procure justice to myself, my family, and creditors. For I am, if it be not your own fault,

Your faithful friend and servant.

LETTER XIV.
The Answer.

SIR,

I ACKNOWLEDGE with gratitude the lenity you have at all times shown, and my being obliged to disappoint you so often has given me much uneasiness. I do assure you, sir, that I am not so ungrateful as my conduct has given you reason to believe. From the state of my accounts, you will find that the greatest part of my property is in the hands of country dealers, who, although they seldom fail, yet their times of payment are very pre-

various and uncertain. However, to convince you of my integrity, I have sent by this day's post an order for 250 dollars, and next week you shall receive one much larger. The remainder shall be sent in a very short time. I am determined, for the future, to make the rules laid down in your excellent letter, a guide, in my dealings with those people whose dilatoriness in making good their payments to me, obliged me to disappoint you; and to convince you further of my integrity, the goods which I order until the old account is paid off, shall be for ready-money. I doubt not but you will continue to treat me with the same good usage as formerly, and believe me to be unfeignedly.

Your obliged humble servant,

LETTER XV.

From a Country Farmer to a Landlord, excusing Delay of Payment.

HONoured SIR,

I AM extremely sorry that through a variety of unforeseen accidents I am obliged to write to you on such a subject as this. The season last year was bad, but I was enabled to pay you. This has turned out much worse, and it being so long before we could get the corn home, it is not yet fit to be sold. I only beg your patience about two months longer, when I hope to pay you faithfully. With gratitude,

I am, sir, your honest tenant,

And humble servant,

LETTER XVI.

The Answer.

MR. CLOVER,

I HOPE that from the whole of my conduct, ever since you first became my tenant, that you cannot have reason to allege any thing against me; I never treated you with rigour, as I always considered you as an industrious honest man. Make yourself perfectly easy concerning the payment of your rent till I come to the country in the summer, and if things are as you represent them, (and I doubt not but they are) you may be assured of every reasonable indulgence.

I am your's.

LETTER XVII.

From an insolvent Debtor, to his principal Creditor, requesting the Acceptance of a Composition.

SIR,

WHEN first entered upon business, I little thought that ever I should be under the necessity of writing to you on such a subject as this: but experience convinces me, that it is much better to acknowledge the state of my affairs to my creditors, than put them to the expense of taking out a commission of bankruptcy. To you, therefore, sir, as the person to whom I am principally indebted, do I address myself on this melancholy occasion, and must freely acknowledge that my affairs are very much perplexed. I have been these ten years past endeavouring to acquire something for myself, but in vain. The variety of different articles which I have been obliged to sell on credit, and the

losses sustained thereby, always kept me in low circumstances ; and often when I paid you money, I had none left for the support of my family. If you will be pleased to employ any prudent person to examine my books, I doubt not but you will be convinced, that the whole of my conduct has been consistent with the strictest rules of honesty ; and if it shall appear so to you, I must beg you will be pleased to call a meeting of the creditors, and lay it before them. I have not spent any more than was absolutely necessary for the support of my family, and every thing remaining shall be delivered up. When all this is done, I hope you will accept of it, as it is not in my power to do any more and consider me as one whose misfortunes call for pity instead of resentment.

I am, sir, your most humble servant.

LETTER XVIII.

The Answer.

SIR,

It is with the greatest concern that I have perused your affecting letter ; and should consider myself as very cruel indeed if I refused to comply with a request so reasonable as that made by you. I have employed a worthy person, a friend of mine, to examine your books, the result of which shall be immediately laid before the other creditors, and if it is as represented, you need not be afraid of any harsh usage. I always considered you as one of the greatest integrity, and am determined to lay

down a plan for your future support. In the mean time I have sent a trifle to defray your expenses, till the other affairs are settled, and am,

Your sincere well-wisher.

LETTER XIX.

From a Tradesman to a wholesale Dealer, to delay Payment of a Sum of Money.

SIR,

My note to you will be payable in ten days and I am sorry to inform you, that although I have considerable sums in good hands, yet none of them are due these three weeks, which is all the time I require. It is a favour I never asked of any till this moment, and I hope for the future not to have any occasion to repeat it. I am really distressed for your answer; but as a proof of my sincerity, have sent inclosed three notes subscribed by persons well known to yourself, and although they exceed my debt, yet I have no objection to your keeping them as security till due. Let me beg to hear from you as soon as this comes to hand, which will greatly oblige

Your humble servant.

LETTER XX.

The answer.

SIR,

It was extremely fortunate for you that your letter arrived the day after it was written, for I was to have paid your note away yesterday, and I could not have had an opportunity of recalling it in time to have served you. Indeed it was imprudent not to communicate the news

to me sooner, as your credit might have been greatly affected by such an unnecessary delay. However, I impute it to your unwillingness to reveal the state of your affairs, and shall keep the note in my hands till your own becomes due, and for that purpose have returned the others, not doubting but you will send me the money at the time promised, which will greatly oblige

Your sincere well-wisher.

LETTER XXI.

*From a Country Store-keeper, to his friend in New-York,
desiring him to send him some Goods.*

SIR,

THAT friendship which we contracted in our youth, is not yet, I hope, abated, although Providence has placed us many miles distant from each other. I have heard of your success in New-York, and it is with pleasure I can assure you that I am comfortably settled here. But you know that our returns are slow, and profits small, and therefore, however willing, I am not in circumstances sufficient to defray the expense of a journey to New-York, in order to purchase goods at the best hand; which has been attended with some loss, because a considerable expense. Relying therefore on your former friendship, I have presumed to solicit your assistance, to purchase, from time to time, what goods I may happen to want from New-York, for which an order shall be remitted on delivery. At present I have only sent for a few articles, as

you will see by the inclosed. I doubt not of your getting them as good and as cheap as possible; and if there is anything I can do to serve you in this part of the country, you may depend on its being executed with the utmost fidelity and dispatch.

I am, sir, your sincere friend.

LETTER XXII.

The Answer.

sir,

Your's I received, and am extremely glad to hear of your being so comfortably settled. There is a pleasure in looking back to those youthful days we spent together in harmless amusements, and it gives me great pleasure to think that I have it in my power to be any way of service to my friend. The goods you ordered are sent in the Hudson Packet, directed to you. They are as good and as cheap as any to be had in New-York, and I hope you will be a considerable gainer. With respect to your kind proffer of service, I heartily thank you, and shall, as occasion requires, trouble you with something of that nature. In the mean time be sure to command me in every thing wherein I can serve you, as it will give the greatest pleasure to

Your sincere friend.

PART III.

ON LOVE, COURTSHIP, AND MARRIAGE.

LETTER XXIII.

From a young Gentleman to a Lady, with whom he is in Love.

MADAM,

I HAVE three times attempted to give you a verbal relation of the contents of this letter; but my heart as often failed. I know not in what light it may be considered, only if I can form any notion of my own heart, from the impression made on it by your many amiable accomplishments, my happiness in this world will, in a great measure, depend on your answer. I am not precipitate, madam, nor would I desire your hand, if your heart did not accompany it. My circumstances are independent, and my character hitherto unblemished, of which you shall have the most undoubted proof. You have already seen some of my relations at your aunt's, in Read-street, particularly my mother, with whom I now live. Your aunt will inform you concerning our family, and if it is to your satisfaction, I shall not only consider myself as extremely happy, but shall also make it the principal study of my future life to spend my days in the company of her whom I do prefer to all others in the world. I shall wait for your answer with the utmost impatience, and am,

Madam, your real admirer.

LETTER XXIV.

The Lady's Answer.

SIR,

I RECEIVED your letter last night, and as it was on a subject I had not yet any thoughts of, you will not wonder when I tell you I was a good deal surprised. Although I have seen you at different times, yet I had not the most distant thoughts of your making proposals of such a nature. Those of your sex have often asserted that we are fond of flattery, and mighty pleased to be praised; I shall therefore suppose it to be true, and excuse you for those fulsome encomiums bestowed upon me in your letter; but am afraid, were I to comply with your proposals, you would soon be convinced that the charms you mention, and seem to value so much, are merely exterior appearances, which, like the summer's flower, will very soon fade, and all those mighty professions of love will end at last in indifference, or, which is worse, in disgust. You desire me to inquire of my aunt concerning your character and family. You must excuse me when I tell you, that I am obliged to decline making any such inquiry. However, as your behaviour, when in company, was always agreeable, I shall treat you with as much respect as is consistent with common decorum. My worthy guardian, Mr. Melville, is now at his seat at Bloomingdale, and his conduct to me has been so much like that of a parent, that I don't choose to take one step in an affair of such importance without both his consent and approbation.—

There is an appearance of sincerity runs through your letter ; but there is one particular to which I have a very strong objection, which is this ; You say that you live along with your mother, yet you don't say that you have either communicated your sentiments to her or your other relations. I must freely and honestly tell you that as I would not disoblige my own relations, so neither would I, on any consideration, admit of any addresses contrary to the inclinations of your's. If you can clear up this to my satisfaction, I shall send you a more explicit answer, and am, sir,

Your most obedient humble servant

LETTER XXV.

The Gentleman's Answer to the above.

DEAR MADAM,

I RETURN you a thousand thanks for your letter, and it is with the greatest pleasure that I can clear up to your satisfaction the matter you doubted of. Before I wrote to you, I communicated the affair to my two cousins ; but had not courage enough to mention it to my mother ; however, that is now over, and nothing, she says, would give her greater pleasure than to see me married to a young lady of your amiable character. Nay, so far is she from having any objection, that she would have waited on you as the bearer of this, had I not persuaded her against it, as she has been these three days afflicted with a severe cold, and I was afraid, that if she had ventured abroad so

soon, it might be attended with dangerous consequences.—But, to convince you of my sincerity, she has sent the inclosed, written with her own hand ; and whatever may be the contents, I solemnly assure you that I am totally ignorant, except that she told me it was in approbation of my suit. If you will give me leave to wait on you, I shall then be able to explain things more particularly.

I am, dear madam, Your real lover.

LETTER XXVI.

From the young Gentleman's Mother, to the young Lady.

DEAR MISS,

If you find any thing in these lines improperly written, you will candidly excuse it, as coming from the hands of a parent, in behalf of an only, beloved, and dutiful son.

My dear Charles has told me that you have made such an impression on him, that he knows not how to be happy in any one else, and it gives me great happiness to find that he has placed his affections on so worthy an object. Indeed it has been my principal study to instruct him in the principles of our holy religion ; well knowing that those who do not fear God, will never pay any regard to domestic duties. His father died when his son was only ten months old, and being deprived of the parent, all my consolation was that I had his image left in the son. I nursed him with all the tenderness possible, and even taught him to read and write. When he was of proper age, I sent him to a

boarding-school, and afterwards to college.— Whilst he was prosecuting his studies, I was constantly employed in recommending him to the care of that God whose eye behold all his creatures, and will reward and punish according to their merit. Ever since his return from Princeton, he has resided constantly with me, and his conduct to every one with whom he has had any connexions, has been equal to my utmost wishes. At present, my dear girl, I am in a very sickly condition, and although I have concealed it from him, yet, in all human probability, my time in this world will not be long. Excuse the indulgent partiality of a mother, when I tell you that it is my real opinion you can never place your affection on a more worthy young man than my son. He is endowed with more real worth than thousands of others whom I have known; and I have been told of instances of his benevolence, which he has industriously concealed. I have only to add further, that the only worldly consideration now upon my mind is to see him happily married, and then my whole attention shall be fixed on that place, where I hope to enjoy eternal felicity.

I am,

Dear miss, your sincere well-wisher.

LETTER XXVII.

The young Lady's Answer.

MADAM,

I WILL excuse the fondness of a tender mother for her only child. Before I received your's, I

had heard an account of your unaffected piety, and the many accomplishments of your son ; so that I was no way surprised at what you say concerning him. I do assure you, madam, that I would prefer an alliance with you before even nobility itself, and I think it must be my own fault if I ever repent calling you mother. I was going to say, that you had known but few pleasures in this life, to be deprived of your husband so soon, and the rest of your life spent under so many infirmities. But your letter convinces me that you have felt more real pleasure in the practice of virtue and resignation to the Divine will, than ever can be had in any, nay, even the greatest temporal enjoyments. I have sent inclosed a few lines to your son, to which I refer you for a more explicit answer, and am, madam,

Your sincere well-wisher.

LETTER XXVIII.

The young Lady's Answer to her Lover.

SIR,

I RECEIVED your's, together with one inclosed from your mother, and congratulate you on the happiness you have had in being brought up under so pious and indulgent a parent. I hope that her conduct will be a pattern for you to copy after, in the whole of your future life : It is virtue alone, sir, which can make you happy. With respect to myself, I freely acknowledge that I have not at present any reason to reject your offer, although I cannot give you a positi-

tive answer until I have first consulted with my guardian. Monday next I set out for his seat at Bloomingdale, from whence you may be sure of hearing from me as soon as possible, and am,

Your sincere well-wisher.

LETTER XXIX.

From the same,

SIR,

In my last I told you, that you should hear from me as soon as possible, and therefore I now sit down to fulfil my promise. I communicated your proposal to Mr. Melvill, who, after he had written to his correspondent in New-York, told me as follows :

Miss, I have inquired concerning the young gentleman, and the information I have received is such that I not only approve of your choice, but must also confess, that if I did not do every thing in my power to forward the union, I should be acting contrary to the request of your father when he lay on his death bed. You may, said he, communicate this to your lover as soon as you please, and may every happiness attend you, both in time and eternity.

And now, sir, have I not told you enough ? Some might think too much ; but I am determined to begin with as much sincerity as I could wish to practise if standing in the presence of my Maker. To expect the same from you is reasonable ; I look for it, and shall be very unhappy if disappointed. But I will hope for the best, and doubt not but the religious educa-

tion bestowed on you by your worthy mother, will operate on the whole of your future conduct in life. You may, therefore, lay aside the tedious formality of courtship, and write to me as one with whom you mean to spend your time in this world.

Ever since my arrival here, my time has been spent in visiting, solus, the woods, the fields, and cottages, meditating on the unbounded goodness of the Almighty Creator. How infinite is his wisdom? How unbounded his liberality? Every thing in nature conspires to exalt his praise, and acknowledge with gratitude their dependence on him. But I will not tire you with such dull descriptions of real beauties. Present my sincere respects to your worthy mother. I hope she gets the better of her disorder, and be assured that I am, yours and her's,

With the greatest affection.

LETTER XXX.

The young Gentleman's Answer.

MY DEAR ANGEL,

Is there any medium between pleasure and pain? Can mourning and mirth be reconciled? Will my dear charmer believe, that whilst I was reading her letter with the greatest pleasure, I was shedding tears for an affectionate parent! Thus Divine Providence thinks proper to mix some gall with our portion in life. It is impossible for me to describe the variety of passions now struggling in my breast. Ten thousand blessings to my charmer on the one.

hand, and as many tears to a beloved parent on the other. I conceived a notion of two impossibilities; one of which I am obliged to struggle with; the other, thanks to you, is over. I thought I could not live without my dear and honoured mother, nor enjoy one moment's comfort unless I could call you mine; but I am now obliged to submit to the one, whilst I have the pleasing prospect of being in the possession of the other. Will my dear sympathize with me, or will she bear with human passions? And although all my hope of temporal happiness is centred in you, yet I doubt not but you will excuse my shedding a tear over the remains of a dear parent; which I am now going to commit to the tomb. My dear creature, were it possible for me to describe the many virtues of that worthy woman who is now no more, you would draw a veil over the partiality of filial duty. Her last words were these: "My dear child, I am now going to pay that debt imposed on the whole human race, in consequence of our first parents' disobedience.—You know what instructions I have given you from time to time; and let me beg of you to hear to them so far as they are consistent with the will of God, revealed in his word. May you be happy in the possession of that young lady on whom you have placed your affections; but may both you and she remember, that real happiness is not to be found in this world; and you must consider your life in this world as merely a state of pro-

bation. To the Almighty God I recommend you."

She was going on, when the thread of life was broken, and she ceased to be any more.— Such was the last end of my dear mother, whose remains are to be interred this evening, and as soon as I can settle every thing with her executors, I will (as it were) fly to meet you. God grant that our happiness in this life may be conducive towards promoting our everlasting felicity hereafter. I am, as before,

Your's, while life remains.

LETTER XXXI.

From the Lady, after Marriage, to her Cousin, unmarried.

DEAR COUSIN,

I HAVE now changed my name, and instead of liberty, must subscribe wife. What an awkward expression, say some! How pleasing, say others! But let that be as it may. I have been married to my dear Charles these three months, and I can freely acknowledge, that I never knew happiness till now. To have a real friend to whom I can communicate my secrets, and who, on all occasions, is ready to sympathize with me, is what I never before experienced. All these benefits, my dear cousin, I have met with in my beloved husband. His principal care seems to be to do every thing possible to please me; and is there not something called duty incumbent on me? Perhaps you will laugh at the word duty, and say that it

down for lovers, especially such of our sex as would rather be celebrated for a romantic turn of mind, than for what is more preferable, a prudent decorum, yet I cannot but be persuaded, there may occur such a crisis, as may make it consistent with the strictest rules of honour and justice; which least ought to be put in the balance, if not outweigh whatever custom may have prescribed. That such a crisis now exists, your letter, and former concurring testimonies, make manifest. For I have too high an opinion of your integrity to doubt their truth; and believe me when I assure you most solemnly, I place their validity to that account, and not to a mistaken notion or consciousness of own merit. No, sir, 'tis from a too sensible conviction of your own injurious error of your passion, I have been induced to commit this violence to my sex. I had almost made my sentiments conjure you to desist, ere it be too late, in the pursuit of a passion, that cannot but bring with it a train of inevitable miseries, since it must be attended with the violation of your duty to that relation to whom you are bound to pay so implicit obedience, by the laws of nature, gratitude, and heaven. I will not offend your delicacy, in urging those of interest and independency, though each consideration ought to have its prevalence, against making a sacrifice of it to an impetuous passion for one whose single desert is, that she dreads your indigence more than she regrets that of the

Unfortunate.

LETTER XXXIV.

From a rich young Gentleman, to a beautiful young Lady, with no fortune.

MISS SOPHIA,

IT is a general reflection against the manners of the present age, that marriage is only considered as one of those methods by which avarice may be satisfied, and poverty averted; that neither the character nor accomplishments of the woman are regarded, her merit being estimated by the thousands of her fortune. I acknowledge that the accusation is too true, and to that may be ascribed the many unhappy matches we daily meet with; for how is it possible that those should ever have the same affection for each other, who were forced to comply with terms to which they had the utmost aversion, as if they had been allowed to consult their own inclination, and give their hands where they have engaged their hearts? For my own part, I have been always determined to consult my inclination where there is the least appearance of happiness; and having an easy independency, am not anxious about increasing it; being well convinced, that in all states, the middle one is best, I mean neither poverty nor riches; which leads me to the discovery of a passion which I have long endeavoured to conceal.

The opportunities which I have had of conversing with you at Mrs. B's, have at last convinced me, that merit and riches are far from being connected, and that a woman may have those qualifications necessary to adorn her sex,

although adverse fortune has denied her money. I am sure that all those virtues necessary to make me happy in the marriage state, are centred in you, and whatever objection you may have to my person, yet I hope there can be none to my character; and if you will consent to be mine, it shall be my constant study to make your life agreeable, and, under the endearing character of a husband, endeavour to supply your early loss of the best of parents. I shall expect your answer as soon as possible, for I wait for it with the utmost impatience. I am your affectionate lover.

LETTER XXXV.

The young Lady's Answer.

SIR,

I RECEIVED your letter yesterday, and gratitude for the generous proposal which you have made, obliges me to thank you heartily for the contents.

As I have no objection either to your person or character, you will give me leave to deal sincerely, and state those things which at present bear great weight with me, and perhaps must ever remain unanswered, and hinder me from entering into that state against which I have not the least aversion.

You well know (at least I imagine so) that the proposal you have made me is a secret both to your relations and friends; and would you desire me to rush precipitately into the marriage state, where I have the greatest reason to feel

that I should be looked upon with contempt, by those whom nature had connected me with? I should consider myself obliged to promote the happiness of my husband; and how consistent would a step of that nature be with such a resolution? You know that I was left an orphan, and had it not been for the pious care of Mrs. B: must have been brought up in a state of servitude. You know that I have no fortune; and were I to accept of your offer, it would lay me under such obligations as must destroy my liberty. Gratitude and love are two very different things. The one supposes a benefit received, whereas the other is a free act of the will. Suppose me raised to the joint possession of your fortune, could I call it mine unless I had brought you something as an equivalent: or, have I not reason to fear that you yourself may consider me as under obligations inconsistent with the character of a wife? I acknowledge the great generosity of your offer, and I would consider myself highly honoured, could I prevail with myself to prefer to peace of mind the enjoyment of an affluent fortune. But, as I have been very sincere in my answer, so let me beg, that you will endeavour to eradicate a passion, which, if nourished longer, may prove fatal to us both.

I am, sir,
With the greatest respect,
Your sincere well-wisher.

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LETTER XXXVI.

The Gentleman's Reply..

MY DEAR SOPHIA,

Was it not cruel to start so many objections ? Or could you suppose me capable of so base an action, as to destroy your freedom and peace of mind ? Or, do you think that I am capable of ever forgetting you, or being happy in the enjoyment of another ? For God's sake do not mention gratitude any more. Your many virtues entitle you to much more than I am able to give ; but all that I have shall be your's. With respect to my relations, I have none to consult besides my mother and my uncle, and their consent, and even approbation, are already obtained. You have often heard my mother declare, that she preferred my happiness with a woman of virtue, to the possession of the greatest fortune ; and, though I forgot to mention it, yet I had communicated my sentiments to her, before I had opened my mind to you. Let me beg that you will lay aside all those unnecessary scruples which only serve to make one unhappy, who is already struggling under all the anxieties of real and genuine love. It is in your power, my dear, to make me happy, and none else can. I cannot enjoy one moment's rest till I have your answer ; and then the happy day shall be fixed. Let me beg that you will not start any more objections, unless you are my real enemy ; but your tender nature cannot suffer you to be cruel. Be mine, my dear, and I am your's for ever. My servant shall wait for an answer to

your ever sincere lover, whose sole happiness is centred in you. I am, &c.

LETTER XXXVII.

The Lady's Answer.

SIR,

I FIND that when one of your sex forms a resolution you are determined to go through, whatever be the event. Your answer to my first objection I must confess is satisfactory. I wish I could say so of the others; but I find that if I must comply, I shall be obliged to trust the remainder to yourself. Perhaps this is always the case, and even the most cautious have been deceived. However, sir, I have communicated the contents of your letter to Mrs. B. as you know she has been to me as a parent. She has not any objection, and I am at last resolved to comply. I must give myself up to you a poor friendless orphan, and shall endeavour to act consistent with the rules laid down and enforced by our holy religion: And if you should so far deviate from the paths of virtue as to upbraid me with poverty, I have no friend to complain to but that God who is the father of the fatherless. But I have a better opinion of you than to entertain any such fears. I have left the time to your own appointment, and let me beg that you will continue in the practice of that virtuous education which you have received. Virtue is its own reward, and I cannot be unhappy with the man who prefers the duties

of religion to gaiety and dissipation.

I am your's sincerely.

LETTER XXXVIII.

From a Lady to a Gentleman, complaining of Indifference.

SIR,

HOWEVER light you make of promises, yet I am foolish enough to consider them as something more than trifles ; and am likewise induced to believe, that the man who voluntarily breaks a promise, will not pay much regard to an oath : and if so, in what light must I consider your conduct ? Did I not give you my promise to be your's, and had you no other reason for soliciting than merely to gratify your vanity ? A brutal gratification, indeed, to triumph over the weakness of a woman whose greatest fault was, that she loved you. I say, loved you ; for it was in consequence of that passion I first consented to become your's.—Has your conduct, sir, been consistent with my submission, or with your solemn protestations ? Is it consistent with the character of a gentleman, first to obtain a woman's consent, and afterwards brag that he had discarded her, and found one more agreeable to his wishes ? Do not equivocate, I have two convincing proofs of your insincerity ; I saw you yesterday walking with Miss Benson, and am informed you have proposed marriage to her. Whatever you may think, sir, I have a spirit of disdain, and even resentment, equal to your ingratitude, and can

treat the wretch with a proper indifference, who can make so slight a matter of the most solemn promises. Miss Benson may be your wife, but she will receive into her arms a perjured husband ; nor can ever the superstructure be lasting, which is built on such a foundation. I leave you to the stings of your own conscience.

I am the injured.

LETTER XXXIX.

The Gentleman's Answer.

MY DEAR ANGEL,

For by that name I must still call you ; has cruelty entered into your tender nature, or has some designing wretch imposed on your credulity ? My dear, I am not what you have represented ; I am neither false nor perjured ; I never proposed marriage to Miss Benson, I never designed it ; and my sole reason for walking with her was, that I had been on a visit to her brother's, who you know is my attorney. And was it any fault in me to take a walk into the fields along with him and his sister ? Surely prejudice itself cannot say so ; but I am afraid you have been imposed on by some designing person, who had private views and private ends to answer by such baseness. But whatever may have been the cause, I am entirely innocent ; and to convince you of my sincerity, beg that the day of marriage may be next week. My affections never so much as wandered from the dear object of my love : in you are centred all my hopes of felicity ; with you only can I

be happy. Keep me not in misery one moment longer, by entertaining groundless jealousies against one who loves you in a manner superior to the whole of your sex ; and I can set at defiance even malice itself. Let me beg your answer by my servant, which will either make me happy or miserable. I have sent a small parcel by the bearer, which I hope you will accept as a convincing proof of my integrity ; And am yours for ever.

LETTER XL.

From a young Officer in the Army, to a Gentleman's Daughter; with whom he is in love.

DEAR SOPHIA,

WHEN our regiment received orders to march from West-Point, I was almost in a state of distraction. To be forced to leave her, who is already in possession of my heart, and separated to such a distance, had almost induced me to give up my commission ; nor have I any resource left but that of the pen. After a long and tedious march we arrived here, where we are to remain till next summer. But, alas ! how insignificant are all the allurements of the place, and the gaiety of my fellow-officers, when compared to the pleasing moments spent in your company. How long, my dear, must I be unhappy ! Will not your sympathising nature pity my distracted mind ! How lamentable the thought, that whilst I am writing this, some more fortunate lover may be making his addresses to my charmer, and even obtaining a place in her

heart ! But what am I saying ? Whither does my delirium drive me ? No, my angel, I know the generosity of your nature ; I dare not suspect your sinserity, and will still believe you mine. The principal gentlemen in New-York invited the officers of our regiment to a ball, and all but myself considered the entertainment as a very great honour, each danced with his partner, as I was told. In order to avoid the company without giving offence, I mounted guard for that day, and enjoyed myself, either thinking of you, or conversing with the soldiers.

According to my promise, I have sent inclosed to your father, and I doubt not of his being surprised, unless you have mentioned it to him. I am impatient for his answer as well as yours. Adieu, my charmer, let me hear from you immediately.

I am your's for ever.

LETTER XLI.

The Officer's Letter to the Lady's Father.

HONOURED SIR,

YOUR generosity to me while our regiment lay at West-Point, will ever lay me under the highest obligations ; but at present I have something of a more important nature to communicate, upon which all my happiness or misery in this world depends, and your answer will either secure the one, or hasten the other.

The many amiable accomplishments of your beloved Sophia, stole insensibly on my heart, and I found myself passionately in love, before

I was able to make a declaration of my sentiments, nor did I do it until the day we were ordered to march. I hope you will forgive my not mentioning it to you; I was really so much agitated, as to be scarce able to attend my duty. I doubt not but one of your sensibility knows what it is to be in love. Your daughter, I freely acknowledge, is adorned with so many virtues, that she is entitled to the best husband in America; and although I dare not hope to merit that appellation, yet I will make it my constant study to promote her happiness.

I have often told you that my parents died whilst I was young, and left me to the care of an uncle lately returned from the East Indies, where he had acquired a considerable fortune. My inclinations led me to the army, and my uncle had procured me a commission. Ever since he has treated me as his own son, and being a bachelor, has made a will in my favour. He is now a senator in Congress for _____, and has given me leave to choose a wife for myself, without any other qualification than virtue. I have written to him concerning your daughter, and his answer is, that he shall consider me as extremely happy in being connected with so worthy a family as your's. I hope you will not have any objection against my being in the army. It was originally my own choice, and I doubt not of rising in time to the command of a regiment. There is a sort of reverential fear upon my mind, whilst I am writing to so wor-

thy a person as the father of my beloved Sophia. Dear sir, excuse my youth, and the violence of my passion. Let me beg your answer, and O ! let it contain your approbation. I am, honoured sir,

Your's with the greatest respect.

LETTER XLII.

The young Lady's Letter to her Lover.

DEAR BILLY,

Not more welcome is the appearance of an inn to a weary traveller, than your kind letter was to me. But how is it possible that you should harbour the least suspicion of my fidelity ? Does my Billy imagine that I would suffer the address of any sot or coxcomb after I was bound in the most solemn manner; I mean by promise ? and be assured, I pay the same regard to my word as my oath. If there is ever an obstruction to our love, it must arise from yourself. My affections are too permanently fixed ever to be removed from the beloved object : and my happiness or misery will be in proportion to your conduct. The inclosed from my father, will, I hope, be agreeable ; I have not seen it, and, therefore can only judge of its contents by the conversation last night at supper. When your letter was delivered, my honoured father was extremely ill of a cold, so that I did not deliver it to him till next morning at breakfast : he retired to his closet to read it, and at dinner told me he would deliver me an answer in the

evening. Accordingly, after supper, and the servants being retired, the best of parents spake as follows:—‘ My dear child, from the principles of that education which you have received, I doubt not but you must be convinced that it is my duty to promote your interest as far as I am able, and how far my conduct as a father has been consistent with that rule, I appeal to yourself. Your own conscience will witness, whether I have not at all times studied to promote your interest, and it is with pleasure that I now say, that your filial duty was equal to my highest wishes.—With respect to the subject of the letter you gave me this morning, I can only say, that I have no objection to your complying with the young gentleman’s request, as I think it may be for your mutual happiness. Indeed, I had some suspicion of it before he left this place; but, being well convinced of his merit, I was almost assured no step of that nature would be taken without my consent. That consent you now have, and even my approbation. May you both be as happy as I wish! I desire no more.’ Here the good man stopped, tears hindered him from proceeding, and me from making a reply. A scene of tenderness ensued, which you may feel, although I cannot describe it. His own letter will convince you, and you may make what use of it you please. I cannot conclude without mentioning your conduct at the New-York ball. Was there none among so many beauties able to attract my Billy’s notice?

and will he at all times prefer my company to that of the gay and the beautiful ? I will hope so, and happy shall I be if not disappointed. In hopes of hearing from you soon, I shall subscribe myself
Yours for ever,

LETTER XLIII.

The Father's Answer to the young Gentleman.

MY DEAR YOUNG FRIEND,

EVER since I first had the pleasure of your conversation, I considered you as a young gentleman of real merit, who would not be guilty of an ungenerous action ; and to that was owing not only the respect I always treated you with, but also the common indulgence to converse freely with my daughter. I can freely excuse your not communicating your sentiments to me before you left this place. Your ardour was somewhat precipitate, and, as you well observe, I know what it is to be in love. The account of your uncle and family I know to be true, for I met with that worthy person who is your benefactor a few days ago at the stage office in this city, and he confirms the truth of all you have written. My dear sir, if ever you live to be a father, you will know what I feel on the present occasion : A willingness to give her to you from a firm persuasion of your merit ; and anxiety for her preservation, from a conviction in my own mind that there is nothing permanent in this world. However, sir, you have my free consent to marry my child, and may the Divine Providence be your guide in the whole of your progress through this

life! My ill state of health serves as a monitor to inform you, that my time in this world will be but short; and there is nothing would give me greater pleasure than to see my dear Sophia happily settled, before I retire to the land of forgetfulness, *where the wicked cease from troubling, and where the weary are at rest.* How great, sir, is the charge which I commit to your care! the image of a beloved wife long since dead, and the hope of my declining years! Her education has been consistent with her rank in life, and her conduct truly virtuous. I have not the least doubt of her conjugal duty, and your felicity in acting conformably to the character of a husband. Upon that supposition I leave her entirely to you; and as soon as you can obtain leave from the Colonel, I shall expect to see you at this place, to receive from my hands all that is dear to me in the world. Your uncle has likewise promised to be here, so that all things are according to your professed wishes.

I am, sir, your's sincerely,

LETTER XLIV.

*From a young Officer, ordered to his Regiment in Minorca,
to a young Lady whom he had courted.*

MY DEAR,

I AM scarce able to hold the pen. An order has just now arrived from the War-office, by which I am obliged to set sail to-morrow for

Minorca, without having the happiness of seeing my angel. What unhappiness to us, and devastation among the human race has the ambition of princes and the perfidiousness of ministers occasioned ! Husbands obliged to leave their beloved wives, and their dear little children ; every relation is broken, and we may well say with Addison,

“ What havock has ambition made !”

But what is this to my present purpose ? Like all others in a state of distraction, I am obliged to write nonsense, if any thing can be so called where the name of my charmer is found. Did you know, my dear, what a struggle I have between love and duty, you would consider me as an object of compassion. I am bound, by the most solemn oath to be your’s ; and at the same time duty obliges me to draw my sword in defence of the just rights of my lawful prince and injured country ; and whatever dangers may wait for me, I would meet them with the greatest cheerfulness, were I sure of possessing one place in your heart. But why do I say one, I must have all or none ; I cannot bear the most distant thought that you would place your affections on another. No, my dear, were that to happen, I would act the part of General Campbell at the fatal battle of Fontenoy, by rushing on the sword of the enemy to put an end to a weary existence. I should cheerfully lay down my life, which could be of small value, were I to be separated for ever from you. But why do I doubt ? I

know my charmer is as virtuous as she is beautiful, and that nothing but my own conduct can ever make her discard me ; but

Is not absence death to those who love ?— However, I have the pleasing reflection yet left, that whilst I am in a distant part of the world attending my duty, I shall be remembered by her, whose prayers for my preservation will be acceptable to that God who loves virtue, who is of purer eyes than to behold iniquity.—

Nothing in this world can ever be so dear to me as you are. Believe all I say, and I am happy. If I do any thing that may appear wrong, inform me of it, and it shall be my first care to confess my fault and amend. I desire your advice in every thing ; but, alas ! separation will render it difficult, though not impossible. Not having had time to settle with our agent, I have left an order with my mother for that purpose. Let me beg that you will honour her with a visit, she will esteem it as a respect shown to me.— I have often told you what an excellent woman she is, and I am fully persuaded you will find her so ; yea, more so than I ever mentioned.— We are to stop at Gibraltar, where I hope to have a letter from you. If it comes too late, the governor will forward it to Minorca. Once more, my dear, farewell ; continue to be mine, and all the vicissitudes and dangers of war will appear as trifles ; and when peace shall again bless the nations, I will fly on the wings of

love to the arms of my dearest angel, and spend
with her the remainder of my days.

I am your sincere lover.

LETTER XLV.
The Lady's Answer.

DEAR CHARLES,

If your hand could scarcely hold the pen, I
am afraid this will appear unintelligible, being
wet with tears from beginning to end. When
your letter arrived, we were drinking tea, and
my father reading the newspaper, wherein it
was said, that all the officers in the army were
ordered to join their regiments. I was a good
deal alarmed, but some hopes remained, till the
fatal letter convinced me that my suspicions
were but too well founded. Alas! how vain
are human expectations? In the morning we
dream of happiness, and before evening, are
really miserable. I was promising to myself
that one month would have joined our hands,
and now we are separated perhaps for years, if
not for ever. For how do I know but the next
post may bring me an account of your being
killed in battle, and then farewell every thing
in this world. My pleasing prospects will then
vanish, and, although unmarried, will remain
a widow till death. And is it possible you can
doubt one moment of my sincerity, or do you
think, that those affections can ever be placed
on another which were first fixed on you, from
a convincing proof of your accomplishments and
merit? No, my dear, my fidelity to you shall

remain as unspotted as this paper, before it was blotted with ink, and bedewed with tears. I know not how others love, but my engagements are for eternity. You desire me to put you in mind of your duty. I know not of any faults, nor am I disposed to look for them. I doubt not, but the religious education you have received in your youth will enable you to resist the strongest temptations; and, like that everlasting honour to the army, Colonel Gardner, although not afraid to fight, yet you will be afraid to sin. However terrifying it may be to meet death in the field, yet it is far more awful to appear before a just God, we have offended by our iniquities. I have been reading *Russel's History of England*, and that elegant author says, that at the battle of Hastings, which overthrew the Saxon monarchy, the Normans, although under arms all night, were yet fervent in their devotions, whilst the English, who thought themselves secure of victory, were spending their time in riot and drunkenness. But, alas! the next day exhibited a different scene. The Normans became conquerors, after killing many thousands of the enemy; and such are commonly the fatal effects of debauchery. There is not one body of people in the world accused of irreligion more than the military, and from the very nature of their employment, none are more obliged to practise every christian duty. They see thousands of their fellow-creatures hurried into eternity, nor do they

know but the next may be themselves. My dear Charles, never be ashamed of religion.—A consciousness of your integrity will inspire you with real courage in the day of battle: and if you should at last die in defence of the just rights of your country, the divine favour will be your comfort through eternity. In the mean time my prayers shall constantly be for your safety and preservation, and my earnest hopes fixed on your happy return.

I have obtained leave of my parents to reside with your mother during the summer, which will at least be some consolation to me in your absence. Let me hear from you as often as possible, but never doubt of my fidelity. Consider me as already your's, and I am happy. Farewell, my dear, and may the wisdom of God direct you, and his providence be your guard, is the sincere prayer of her who prefers you before all the world.

PART IV.

ON FRIENDSHIP, &c.

LETTER XLVI.

From a Gentleman, whose Wife was lately dead, to a Clergyman in the Neighbourhood.

REV. SIR,

YOU have often, both in public and in private, enlarged on those comforts and consolations which Christianity affords to the afflicted; and if ever they were necessary to one under those circumstances, they must be to myself. About seven last night my wife died in child-bed, and I am left the disconsolate parent of five young children. Had you seen the excruciating tortures under which she expired, it would have reminded you of the emphasis of that curse pronounced upon our first parents for their rebellion against God. When she saw the king of terrors approach, she was all resignation to the divine will, and left this lower world in the same manner, and with the same cheerful alacrity, as if she had been going to visit a friend, or attend the service of her Maker. Overwhelmed with grief, I entered her chamber, when she exerted the small remains of strength, and spoke to me as follows:

MY DEAR,

I am now going the way of all flesh, but God, the everlasting God, will be your comfort.—When I first became your's, I looked for all the happiness consistent with the state of nature in

this vale of misery ; and I must confess that my highest wishes have been gratified, and your tenderness has been ever more than I could expect. You may have seen faults in my conduct, but I do assure you (and this is not a time to dissemble) they were altogether involuntary. My principal study was to gain the favour of that God before whom I am soon to appear. My obedience to the commands of my God has been attended with many imperfections, but I trust for pardon and acceptance in the merits of my dear Redeemer. Here she fainted—looked wishfully at me, and shed a tear over her dear children who were crying by her bed. She attempted to speak, but in vain. At last fixing her eyes towards heaven, she repeated those beautiful words, " Into thy hands I commit my soul, for thou hast redeemed me, O ! thou God of my salvation," and then closed her eyes, never to be opened till the sound of the last trumpet. I was sunk in the greatest distress, looked on the dear departed remains of my beloved spouse, and endeavouring to silence, by persuasion, the cries of her orphan children. At last I recollect that I had still a friend left in you, to whom I might, with a view of consolation, lay open the inmost recesses of my heart. I am afraid your indisposition may binder you from visiting me, and if so, let me beg that you will in the mean time favour me with a few lines. At present every sort of consolation will be acceptable; but whatever comes from you will be doubly so.

I know not what to write : excuse incoherence and impropriety, from him whom you have often honoured with the appellation of friend.
I am, &c.

LETTER XLVII.

The Clergyman's Answer.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

I SINCERELY commiserate your variegated calamity, and wish there was any thing in my power that could alleviate your distress. You well know that all affliction, of whatever kind it is, proceeds from God.—“I create light and make darkness, I make war and make peace. I the Lord do all these things.” This, sir, should be your first consideration, and this should regulate the whole of your conduct.—It was this consideration that reconciled old Eli to the severest doom that perhaps was ever denounced. Though contrary to human nature, and much more so to natural affection, yet it is the Lord, let him do what shall seem good.—This reconciled Job to all his unparalleled sufferings. “The Lord giveth, the Lord taketh away ;” rapacious hands, and warring elements, were only instruments of his power, therefore I bless and adore his holy name.—This consolation fortified the man Christ Jesus on the approach of his inconceivable bitter agony. But it is my Father’s pleasure, and not the malice of mine enemies, therefore not my will but his be done.

If your Father, dear sir, your heavenly Fa-

ther, who loves you with an everlasting love, has thought proper to mix some gall with your portion of life, sensible of the beneficent hand from which your visitation comes, may you bow your head in awful silence, and say with the afflicted Hezekiah of old, "Good is the word of the Lord concerning me."

Afflictions are often accompanied with many valuable benefits: as David said, "It is good for me that I have been afflicted, for before that I went astray."

Afflictions serve to wean us from the world. When every thing goes smoothly on, and nothing interrupts the present enjoyments, we are apt to forget the God that made us, and say with unparalleled assurance, Who is the Almighty that I should serve him?

Afflictions serve to lead us to value the blessings of Christianity, and to hold in the lowest estimation our own worthiness. When sorrows harass our circumstances, and troubles oppress our minds, we are glad, we are earnest to find rest in Christ. The severe affliction under which I have so long laboured, hinders me from seeing you, although I shall take the first opportunity of doing so, when it pleases God to restore me again to health. In the mean time I have sent you a copy of Fleetwood's Life of Christ. A careful perusal of that valuable work will reconcile you to the various dispensations of Providence; especially when you consider the character of the Redeemer, who suffered so much

fer us. He bore our griefs and carried our sorrows. He was a man of sorrow and acquainted with grief.

From these considerations, my dear friend, endeavour to reconcile yourself to this awful dispensation of Providence. I am sensible of your loss, but you know not what God may yet have in store for you. Perhaps he has only deprived you of one mercy in order to bestow another. I doubt not, but the Almighty has thousands of mercies yet in store for you, both in time and in eternity, and that period is fast approaching when you yourself must put off this earthly tabernacle, and pay that debt to nature which your beloved spouse has already done. Let your care at present be, to attend the education of your children. Your duty is now doubly increased, and all that was incumbent on your beloved spouse, is now transferred to yourself; but the blessings of the Almighty will be bestowed in proportion to your cheerful obedience. It is a great comfort that your beloved spouse died in the faith and fear of the dear Redeemer, and it will be the greatest honour you ever can acquire, to instruct your children in those principles which made the prospect of death agreeable, and even welcome to their mother; so that when the great God shall appear to judge the world, you may be able to stand before him and say, here I am, and the children which thou hast given me. Thus, sir, I have said all that I can think on the present holy occasion. But how comfortable are

those words of St. Paul, "Our light affliction, which is but for a moment, shall work out for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory!"

The things that are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal. There is nothing permanent or lasting in this world, and the tall oak is as easily cut down by the hand of Omnipotence as the plant is plucked up. I feel myself growing weak, and must therefore conclude. May that gracious God who has thought proper to afflict you, continue to support you under this and every other trial, till you arrive at last in the kingdom, where the wicked cease from troubling, and where the weary are at rest, is the sincere prayer of

Your most affectionate friend.

LETTER XLVIII.

From a young Woman to a Lady, with whom she had formerly lived as a Companion.

MADAM,

THE precipitate manner in which I left your family, may seem inconsistent with the great tenderness you always treated me with. To remove, therefore, every imputation of ingratitude, I embrace this first opportunity of appearing in my own vindication, although, for your sake, I am sorry to descend to particulars, especially to mention names. But my reputation, which is dearer to me than life itself, is at stake, and as a woman, I doubt not but you will bear with me.

When I first came into your service, I was determined to act in such a manner as not to give any offence to the meanest of your domestics ; well knowing that good nature and affability always procure respect ; and I appeal to every person in your family, whether my conduct was not consistent with my plan. In this manner I remained, enjoying an uninterrupted state of felicity for some time. I obeyed your commands with alacrity ; and even servitude became a pleasure. But this was too happy a state to last long without interruption. But I scarce know how to proceed : Whilst I am vindicating my own conduct to my most generous benefactress, I am obliged to impeach that of her dearest and most beloved relation.

When your son George returned from the university, where he had been finishing his studies, I had no thoughts that he would ever have made an attempt on my virtue. But alas ! I was wretchedly deceived.—He had only been a few days at home, when he laid hold of every opportunity of being in my company. At first I did not take any notice, as I had not the least suspicion of his intentions. But I was soon convinced of my error, when he told me, that, in consequence of my prostituting myself to his unlawful pleasure, he would make me a handsome settlement. This, madam, was a strong temptation, but blessed be God who preserved me innocent. You have often told me, that young women ought to fly from every appear-

ance of sin ; and if so, how great was my necessity of avoiding the evil : Had I laid snares to entrap your son for a husband, it might have destroyed your own peace of mind, and been considered as a dishonour to your family. Had I submitted to his unlawful desires, I should have forfeited every title to respect in the world, and highly offended that God who has graciously preserved me hitherto. He became more and more assiduous, till for his, for your's, and for my sake, I was obliged to retire in as silent a manner as possible. I am now in the house of a distant relation in Milbank, who takes in plain work, where I hope your ladyship will be pleased to send my clothes. With respect to wages, you know I always left that to your own discretion, and your humanity exceeded my utmost expectations. Therefore, I again leave that matter to yourself. Let me beg, that if you mention this unhappy affair to the young gentleman, it may be with your usual tenderness. I would willingly impute his folly to the irregularities of youthful passion, rather than to any premeditated scheme ; and I doubt not when reason re-assumes her throne in his heart, he will be sorry that ever he attempted to ruin one who was scarce worthy of his notice.

I am, Madam,

With gratitude and respect,

Your affectionate well-wisher.

F

LETTER XLIX.

The Lady's Answer.

DEAR BETTY,

WHILST I lament the conduct of my unhappy child, I lift up my eyes with thankfulness to that gracious being who has preserved you from ruin. You was left an orphan under my care ; and when I first took you into my family it was with a design to promote your interest. Blessed be God, that the precepts which I endeavoured to instil into your tender mind, have so far operated on your conduct. Your behaviour in that unhappy affair ought to be laid down as a pattern for all young women to copy after, if they would either be respected in this world, or enjoy happiness in the next. I have just been reading your letter to my son, and he was filled with the utmost shame and confusion. The truth of your narrative forced his conscience to make a genuine confession of his guilt ; and unless I judge with the partiality of a mother, he is really a sincere penitent. I laid open to him the nature of his crime, and its aggravating circumstances arising from the obligations which his elevated rank subjected him to, to be an example of virtue to those in a lower sphere of life. I told him, that, however trifling such actions might appear in the eyes of his graceless companions, yet there was a God who beheld his inmost thoughts, and would reward or punish him according to his merits. He declares himself fully sensible of his folly, and says he is determined never to

attempt any such thing for the future. The bearer will deliver your clothes, together with a bank note of an hundred pounds. Be assured of my constant assistance; and may that God who has preserved you in such imminent danger, be your continual comfort in time and in eternity!

I am your sincere well-wisher.

LETTER L.

From a Lady to her Friend, whose lover had basely left her, and married another.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

OUR expectation of happiness is generally so ill placed, that it is no wonder we meet with perpetual disappointments. When our choice arises from passion, we have so very blind a guide as will inevitably lead us to destruction; for though love appears then gentlest, yet our affections are so much the right of our Creator, that as often as we fix them immoderately upon any of the fading objects here below, we are certainly guilty of sacrilege to the Divine Goodness, which fault is commonly punished by the very thing we doat on. This, I doubt not, has been your case, and not your's alone; for soon or late few escape that mischief, especially amongst our weaker sex, whose tender nature leaves them most exposed to ruin; and though they see others shipwrecked before their eyes, will yet venture out to sea on the same bottom, insensible of danger, till they perish, and often fill up pities.

Men have a thousand advantages over us, but in the affair of courtship they add cunning to all their other accomplishments, and are as zealous to deceive, as if their lives would be made happy by the cheat. However, they will find it a sad mistake at last, if perjury is to be accounted for; although your false traitor, like many others, may look on that time at a great distance. But I suppose he thinks himself excused, as being more knave than fool, which title, indeed, is so highly due to him, that, I believe, none will do him such manifest wrong as to dispute it; and I am sure, the blacker he appears, the greater reason you have to bless that Providence, which permitted him to break the contract; for without doubt, he that proved so ill a lover to the best of mistresses, would have made an intolerable husband to the best of wives; and ill usage would have cost you more than his infidelity. I am sensible a heart so generous and constant as your's, cannot easily efface the deep impression he has made in it; that must be the work of time, with God's assistance, which, I hope, will never fail you. I do assure you, I am deeply touched with every thing that concerns you; nor is it without great regret, that I submit to my unhappy circumstances detaining me from being the companion of your melancholy hours, which I should endeavour, with all my power, to divert.

You say it is a daily aggravation to your trouble, to think you suffered yourself to be

so easily imposed on ; but that, as I told you before, is our common fate, although all impostors are not equally industrious to be wicked ; and you ought not to condemn your own judgment, for want of sagacity to discover a cheat, as it would be to arraign the conduct of almost all the human race.

Pardon me, dear madam, for troubling you so far. Indeed I might have told you at first what I must mention now, and what you know already, that he only can give us comfort whom we seldom regard but when we are driven to it by necessity. Solomon, who had tried all the alluring charms of love and beauty, whose quality and values gave him an opportunity to gratify every inclination, without any bounds to his wishes, could call them all " vanity and vexation of spirit." It is no wonder, then, if every one of us discover the same truth to our own cost. Let us therefore resolve, as much as we can, to submit our wills to the will of our heavenly Father, who sees all our actions, and has so decreed, that our way to everlasting happiness, should be through the wilderness of affliction. I am,

Dear madam,

Your sincere friend.

PART V.

MISCELLANEOUS.

ON CLEANLINESS AND BEHAVIOUR IN COMPANY.

LETTER LI.

From Portia to her Daughter Sophia.

MY DEAR SOPHIA,

YOUR last letter, which I received some weeks ago, gave me the greatest pleasure. You are as much improved in your writing as I could have wished ; and more indeed than I could have expected. Your expressions of duty and obedience are extremely agreeable : they, at once, discover a good heart and a clear head. Do not make yourself uneasy, my dear, because you can never repay the favours I have done you. I am repaid already. I enjoy as much pleasure in bestowing, as you can possibly do in receiving them : and, if I should have the additional happiness to see you become a polite and virtuous woman, I shall be doubly rewarded. To receive favours from a stranger, indeed, which we can never return, is always disagreeable, and sometimes dangerous. But, with parent and child, the case is very different. The

Letter on Cleanliness.

connexion between them is so close by nature that all the good offices in the world can hardly make it closer. I am glad to hear that you live so happily. It is no more than I had reason to expect, from the sweetness of your own disposition, and the prudence of your governess; and I should be sorry if you considered her disapprobation, with regard to cleanliness, as any diminution of your happiness, for she is certainly in the right.

Cleanliness, my dear, is a habit, I had most said a virtue, which you cannot learn soon, nor retain too long, both from a regard to yourself, and to the world around you. It will at once contribute to the ease and health of your body, and be the means of introducing you into polite and genteel company; at least the opposite extreme of dirtiness will certainly deprive you of that advantage; it will either make your company to be shunned; or, if that cannot be done, it will always render your presence disagreeable.

But beware, my dear, that you do not confound cleanliness with finery; nor mistake one for the other. They are as distinct in their nature as any two things can well be; although not inconsistent, are frequently found to be separated. A woman may be very neat and clean, in a plain and simple dress; and she may be very dirty and disorderly, in a fine and costly one. There is Miss Molesworth; she never wears any thing above a plain silk gown; but

Letters on Cleanliness

that, and all the other parts of her dress, which are equally simple, she puts on with such elegance and propriety, as pleases the eye of every one that beholds her: whilst Lady Dorner, on the contrary, though drest in the richest satin brocade; and loaded with a profusion of jewels and pearls, is, after all, so slovenly and tawdry, that she may rather be said to *carry* her clothes like a porter, than to *wear* them like a well-drest lady.

I therefore expect you will obey your governess's orders in this, and in every thing else, because I am confident she will never order you to do any thing but what is just and reasonable. But you say, it consumes a great deal of time: I am persuaded you will always find as much as you ought to bestow (in order to be neat) between the time that is usual for leaving off school, and that of going to dinner. Besides, it will, every day require less, for the more you practise it, the easier it will become; and a twelve-month hence, I dare say, you will be, able to dress yourself as well in half an hour, as you can do at present in a whole one. You may likewise consider it as a kind of diversion or relaxation from more serious business; and diversions, you know, of one sort or other, you must have. Your papa, your brothers and sisters join in love to you. I ever am,

Your affectionate mother,

PERTIA.

LETTER LVI.

From Portia to her daughter Sophia.

MY DEAR SOPHY,

I RECEIVED your's a few weeks ago, and am extremely glad to hear that you live so happily with your aunt and cousins. I dare say it will not be their fault if you don't continue to do so, and I hope it will never be yours. I could not help smiling at your humorous, or rather natural description of London; for such as you have described it, it must certainly appear to all young people on their first arrival. But the sense of novelty will soon wear off; you will behold the different objects with less surprise every day; till at last, when they are become perfectly familiar, you will view them with the same indifference that you used to do the trees and fields in the country.

This surprise, indeed, which seizes most young people on their first coming to town, has a very fatal effect upon weak minds. It occasions such a dissipation of spirits as banishes all serious thought and employment; and, if it is not corrected in time, frequently grows into a confirmed habit of levity and idleness. But, I hope this will not be your fate; I am confident it will not; your own good sense will prevent it: or, if that should fail, the admonitions of your aunt, the example of your cousin Lumley, who is a very prudent young lady, will effectually preserve you. By these two guides, my dear, namely, the advice of the one, and the example of the other, I would have you to regulate

your conduct entirely. If you do, you will be in little danger of committing any great or capital mistakes. You will be guilty of few errors, of fewer faults, and hardly ever of any crime at all.

What you say with regard to its being more difficult to conduct yourself in London at the age of fifteen, than it was in the country at nine or ten, is extremely just. In the country the temptations to vice are so few, that unless a person be naturally of a bad disposition, she cannot go astray from the paths of virtue; but in town the allurements to vice are so many, and so strong, that, to be able to withstand them all, a young lady must be endued by nature with a good heart and a clear head; she must be assisted and directed by the prudent advice of her elders, and the virtuous example of her equals; and she must have the modesty and good sense to listen to the former, and to imitate the latter. All these advantages, however, you happily enjoy, and, I hope you will not fail to make a proper use of them.

The opinion you entertain of your aunt is extremely well founded. She is certainly a lady of great prudence and discretion, and, in every respect, as capable to advise and direct you, as I can pretend to be. In matters, indeed, relating to the town, she is more so, as she is much better acquainted with its present customs and fashions. But, whenever you choose to consult me about any thing, you may always expect to receive my best advice.

As to the rules, my dear, which ought to be observed in conversation, they are many and various. I shall endeavour to explain them to you in this and the following letter; for it is a matter of great importance for every young lady to understand them perfectly, and to practise them carefully. So much of our time is spent in conversation, that she who is either ignorant or negligent of these rules, must make a very awkward and ridiculous figure in company. But first of all, my dear, let me observe, that your aunt has acted very wisely in enjoining you and your cousins a profound silence, except when a question is put to you. You must learn to think, before you presume to speak: and the best, the only way for this, is to be silent, and to listen, with attention, to the conversation of those who are older and wiser than yourself. In the country, indeed, you might chatter and prattle as much as you pleased, because there you was in the company of your equals. But now the case is altered... You are now admitted into the company of your superiors; of those, I mean, who are superior to you in age, sense, knowledge, experience, and indeed every thing but rank and fortune. It is therefore your duty, my dear, to sit mute, and to profit and improve by their wise reflections, and judicious remarks. And, when once you are considerably improved, when once you have stored and furnished your mind with a sufficient stock of knowledge for bearing a part in rational conversation, then, to be sure,

you may speak : then your aunt will not hinder you to talk in company. On the contrary, I know she will invite you to it, and listen to you with pleasure.

But this, my dear, is an honour, to which you could never attain, were you permitted to speak in company too early : for, by this means, you would be cut off from all opportunities of improvement. Perpetually prattling and tattling yourself, how could you possibly attend to or profit by the conversation of others ? In a word, were you allowed to talk in company too early, the consequence would be, that you would never be able to talk in it at all, with any kind of sense or propriety. She that affects to be a woman too soon, is likely to continue a child all her life.

Lady Danvers is a striking instance of this. By the foolish fondness of her parents, she was admitted into company at the age of seven, and because, forsooth, she said some very smart things (so her parents imagined, though nobody else could perceive it,) she was allowed to talk with all the freedom and assurance of one of seventeen. But, unhappily, as she could not come up (smart as she was) to the rational conversation of the company, they were obliged, in complaisance; to come down to her low prattle ; by which means she continues to prattle to this day. For how could she possibly learn to do otherwise? her parents were so complaisant to her, and the company that frequented the house were so complaisant to her, and the company

that frequented the house, were so complaisant to the parents, that, for several years, miss never heard any thing above her own tittle-tattle ; and, when afterwards she happened to fall into other companies, less polite, or rather more sensible, her mind was so over-run with ignorance and pride, that she either could not understand, or would not attend to the subject of conversation. The persons she chose for her friends and companions, you may believe, were such as could prattle like herself, or perhaps could do nothing but prattle ; so that their example instead of reclaiming, served only to confirm her in her old habit of trifling and impertinence. Thus in body she is a woman ; in soul she is a child. To the smart and witty she is an object of ridicule and derision ; because she does not seem to be sensible of her own weakness ; to the humane and good-natured she is an object of pity and compassion ; because had it not been for the indulgence of her parents, she might have proved a very accomplished woman. Such, my dear, are the fatal effects of allowing young people to talk in company too early : and from hence, I dare say, you will be convinced, that your aunt acts very wisely in denying you that liberty, at least for some time.

After all, I don't mean that you should be kept silent too long. This might bring on a habit of diffidence and bashfulness, which perhaps you would never afterwards be able to correct. But when, in what company, and on

what subject, you may begin to talk; your aunt is the proper judge: do her orders you must cheerfully submit in this, and in every thing else. The rules necessary to be observed in polite conversation, shall be explained in my next letter. At present I have no more to add, but that I ever am,

Yours, &c.

PORTIA.

LETTER LIII.

DEAR SOPHY,

LAST week I received a letter from your aunt, in which she expresses her entire satisfaction with every part of your conduct. She says you discover so much modesty, discretion, and good sense, that she intends to let you take a share in the conversation very soon. Allow me, therefore, as I promised in my last, to mention a few rules, by the observance of which you cannot fail to render yourself an agreeable companion.

First of all, then my dear, take care never to interrupt any person when she is speaking. This is the highest of ill-manners. If she talks longer than she ought, and even deserves to be interrupted, yet be not you the first to do it. That will come with a better grace from one of greater age and experience. If she is guilty of one fault, that is no reason why you should be guilty of another. If you have a reflection to make upon any thing she has said, you must reserve it till the end of the story; though perhaps you may imagine it would have come in

with greater propriety in the middle of it. If the remark would have been very pertinent then, it will not be impertinent now; but if it appears to be trifling here, you may be assured it would not have been very sensible even there. By this means, you will at once discover your prudence and discretion, and insensibly acquire a habit of retaining and examining your thoughts before you throw them out in conversation.

I am the more anxious, my dear, to caution you against this practice of interrupting people in the middle of their discourse, because it is an error which young persons, from the natural heat of their temper and the vivacity of their spirits, are more apt to commit. Your friend is telling a story. In consequence of something she says, a good thought strikes your fancy; out it comes; for you can contain yourself no longer.—Your friend is stopt.—The rest of the company smile.—And yet perhaps your remark was very smart and witty. But was it really, do you think, or could it possibly be, so very smart and witty, as to apologize for your ill-manners in interrupting your friend? Every sensible person will tell you that it could not.

There is another fault, my dear, nearly akin to the former, and which you ought to avoid with care and diligence; and that is, the custom of anticipating any person who is speaking, never allowing her to finish a single sentence, but supplying the last two or three words yourself. The only shadowy of excuse that can be

offered for this practice, is, that it shows you are attending to what is said. But, if this be the only proof of your giving attention, it is a very ill-bred one; and perhaps it would be as good manners to give no attention at all. It is, in effect, saying to a person that she cannot tell her own story; or, at least, that if you understood her meaning, you could express it much better: than which, I don't know if you can offer any one a greater affront. I have seen some people so provoked at this unmannerly treatment, as to stop short in the middle of their story; and others, who, though perhaps they were going to use the very same words with the person who prevented them, yet, upon observing their ill-manners, scorned to do so; but, to mortify their pride, expressed themselves in terms different from what they originally intended. This, indeed, is the gentlest reproof that can be given to such persons; and this reproof, at least, ought always to be given to every one who is guilty of so much rudeness and ill-breeding.

Another rule, my dear, which you ought carefully to observe, is, never to take up too much of the conversation yourself, and far less to engross the whole of it. This, even in persons of the greatest age, knowledge, and experience, must appear ridiculous; but, in one so young, so ignorant, and so inexperienced as you are, it would be condemned as the height of arrogance and presumption. Indeed, every one seems to

be entitled to a greater or less share of the conversation, in proportion to her years and knowledge: but no person, let her years and knowledge be what they will, has a right to the whole of it; nor should any one, however young and ignorant, be entirely excluded. This would destroy the very end of conversation, which is mutually to impart and receive knowledge, pleasure, and improvement. For, what knowledge and improvement can she possibly receive, who is always talking herself, and never allows the rest of the company to open their mouths? Or what pleasure can they enjoy, who are condemned to a profound silence, and have their ears perpetually stunned with the noise of the same tongue. If, indeed, they could enjoy any pleasure in such circumstances, they must be endowed with great patience and humility, greater, I am afraid, than fall to the share of any individual of the human kind.

Still, however, it is certain, that young ladies should be more apt to hear than to speak. They are more fit to learn than to teach. It is their business rather to acquire, than communicate knowledge. And, by a young lady's behaviour in this respect, you may form a pretty just notion of her prudence and discretion in general; for the greater share she possesses of these good qualities, the more will she be disposed to listen, and the less forward to talk: but when you observe one more inclined to talk herself, than to attend to the discourse of others, you

may safely conclude, that her stock of sense and wisdom is very scanty and small. A young lady's conversation, I think, should chiefly consist in asking some necessary questions, or making some pertinent reflections upon what is said ; and seldom, if ever, should she venture to introduce any new subject of discourse. This will at once discover her modesty, the most amiable quality in young people, and be the means of improving and cultivating her mind, much better than it could possibly be in any other way. For, of all kinds of knowledge, that which we gain by inquiry is received into the mind with the greatest care. Having felt the want of it, and being sensible of its value and importance, we are not likely ever to let it slip out of our memory.

But if, at any time, you should take the liberty of telling a story in company, as doubtless you may in a year or two hence, let me advise you to observe the following rules : Beware of rambling from one subject to another, which is always a sign of a weak and confused head. Let your story be short, otherwise you will fall into the error I have condemned above. Tell it distinctly and accurately, mentioning all the material circumstances, and none but such as are so ; and even upon these do not dwell too long : if you do, you will be in danger of loosing the thread of your story, and perhaps not be able to finish what you had begun. A person, travelling on the high way may safely di-

yert herself with a view of all the remarkable by-paths, and even turn aside into them a little for the sake of a better prospect ; but if, charmed with the beauty of the landscape, or forgetful of her intended journey, she proceed too far, she may bewilder herself, and never be able to recover the main road.

Another maxim, my dear Sophy, which you ought to observe in conversation, is, never to contradict any one, unless it be in your own defence, or that of your absent friend ; and, even then, you may do it in such a manner as to give no offence, at least to any sensible person. You may observe, that you apprehend the lady is misinformed, or give some other gentle insinuation, which your own prudence and discretion will readily suggest. But, in matters of indifference, it is better not to contradict any person at all ; because it might occasion disputes, which are very indecent in the company of ladies. For those who are most apt to say exceptionable things, are least able to bear contradiction. The same weakness of mind which leads them to the former, disqualifies them for the latter. They are ignorant, and therefore they commit errors ; they are proud, and therefore they will persist in them. Above all, never contradict any person merely for the sake of contradiction. This would betray a bad heart. It were to take pleasure in other people's pain ; to mortify your companion, without any prospect of advantage to yourself.

Never affect to be smart and witty in your reflections. This might create you a great many enemies ; but never could procure you one single friend. Nay, perhaps, it might make you lose those whom you already have : for a professed wit, in her extravagant flights and sal-lies, spares neither friend nor foe. The giddy and thoughtless might admire you ; the vicious and wicked would hate and abhor you ; and even the good and virtuous would dread and shun you ; for virtue itself is hardly secure from the poisonous darts of malignant wit. If you have a natural fund of wit, conceal it as much as possible ; or if it must sometimes appear, let it always be seasoned with humanity and good nature. But if you have no natural turn for it, never affect it. All kinds of affectation are ridiculous ; but that of wit is doubly so. By endeavouring to make others laugh, you yourself will become the object of ridicule and derision.

In company, never speak ill of any absent person, whether friend, stranger, or enemy. The first would be base, the second unjust, and the last, low and mean-spirited. By speaking ill of your absent friends, you deserve to loose, and certainly would loose, both them and those who are present ; for who, in their senses, would cultivate a friendship with one guilty of so much perfidy and baseness ? By speaking ill of strangers, you would make all the world your foes ; for she who, without the least provocation, can asperse the character of those with whom she

has little acquaintance, and no connexion, deserves to be the object of universal hatred and detestation. By inveighing against your absent enemies, you would discover the most contemptible meanness of spirit and littleness of mind ; and, if it should come to their ears, might flatter their pride and vanity too much by making them imagine, that they had ruffled your temper more than perhaps they had really done, or at least than you should give them an opportunity of knowing.

I am the more concerned, my dear, to caution you against this vice, because it is generally said to prevail most in the company of ladies. I wish I could say the imputation were unjust ; I hope it is ; but to deny it flatly would be too presumptuous in me, who, for several years past, have been so little conversant in the polite world. For you know, that of late I have hardly minded any thing else but the affairs of my own family ; and, in the management of these, I think my time has been more usefully and honourably employed, than it could possibly have been in any other way.

All I can say, is, that, if this abominable practice (for I can call it no better) be general, I have always endeavoured to be an exception to it myself. I never did, to the best of my knowledge, injure the character of any individual person ; nay, I have left several companies, that I might not have my ears offended, nor my mind polluted, with the hellish sound of calumny and detraction. You will think, my

dear, that I talk in a very high strain; and so I do; but I do it for this reason, that I may inspire you with an utter aversion and abhorrence of this infernal vice.

I don't mention my own conduct, my dear, from the principle of pride and vanity. My only intention is to propose it to you as a pattern of imitation. I hope you will never think it beneath you to imitate the conduct of your mother.—Let me not entertain a suspicion so unworthy of my dear child.—I know you never will; I am convinced, on the contrary, you will take a pleasure and a pride in following my advice and example.

Let me, therefore, advise you, my dear Sophy; let me persuade you, never to speak an ill word of any absent person whatever, nor even to keep company with those who are guilty of this detestable crime. If you should happen to hear any expression dropt in company, that favours the least of calumny and detraction, seem at first to overlook it; but, if the conversation begin to run entirely in this dirty channel, then fly from the company outright—fly from it as you would fly from a plague—for as certainly as the one would infect your body, so certainly will the other infect your mind. Still, however, you may leave it in a polite and genteel manner, on the pretexts of business, of some other engagement, or the like; for, though they hardly deserve to be treated with so much ceremony, you ought always to remember what is due to your own character. Because they are ill-na-

tured, you are not, therefore, to be ill-bred. Such company as this, my dear, you are in no danger of seeing at your aunt's, nor in the whole circle of her acquaintance. With people of this stamp she would disdain to have any kind of intercourse or correspondence. She would scorn to pay them any visits, and she would take care not to receive any from them. Would to God there were no such people in the world ! I hope there are few ; but still I am afraid there are some ; and in their company you may, sometimes, happen to fall by mere chance. On all these occasions, let me entreat you to follow the directions I have given above.

Another rule, my dear Sophy, which you ought to observe in conversation, is, never to say any thing that may give pain or uneasiness to any one of the company. By this I don't mean any of the errors which I have described and condemned above. All these to be sure, give pain and uneasiness to the persons that suffer by them ; but then they do so in plain and open terms, and, of consequence, may be the more easily corrected or refuted. What I mean at present is, that you ought never to say any thing that seems to reflect, even in the most distant manner, upon the faults or foibles of any of the company, or of their absent friends. If this proceeds from malice, it betrays a bad heart ; if from want of thought, it discovers a weak head : and the ill-natured and foolish are equally unqualified for the delicate intercourse of polite conversation.

The last advice, my dear, which I shall give you on this subject, is never to appear to be absent in company, or inattentive to the person who is speaking. This is always a sign of intolerable pride, or of great weakness. Some people are so full of themselves; that they disdain to listen to the conversation of others. Their minds are puffed up with such a high opinion of their own good sense, that they think it below them, forsooth, to attend to, what they imagine, the nonsense of other people.—Such vain and conceited fools should be excluded from all companies, condemned to perpetual solitude, and obliged to converse with those only whom they esteem; that is, with their own dear selves. But this absence of thought, this want of attention, is not always the effect of pride. It is sometimes owing to the mind's being strongly possessed with some violent passion, which swallows up, as it were, all the faculties of the soul, and renders it insensible to every other impression. One in this situation shall be so far from attending to the person who is speaking; that, even when she is spoken to, she will hardly understand you. She starts, like one roused out of a dream; and wonders where she is, or what the company have been doing. All that can be said for such people; is, that they are more the objects of pity than contempt. They are labouring under a violent disease of the mind, and should no more venture into company, than if they were in a raging fever. There is another source of this habit of inatten-

tion: it sometimes proceeds from a constitutional weakness, incident to giddy and thoughtless minds, which can never fix for ten minutes upon the same object, but must be always fluttering from one trifle to another. A person of this character can neither tell a story herself, nor attend to one that is told by another. To confine her attention to the same subject, or to make her thoughts run in the same channel for a quarter of an hour together, would be a kind of imprisonment which she could not bear. All her pleasure lies in perpetual change and variety, and that she would not forego on any account whatever. Of all these different kinds of inattention, the last is certainly the most excusable, and perhaps the easiest to be cured; for, being commonly the effect of youth, it will, of consequence, wear off as the person advances in years.

These, my dear, are some of the principal maxims which you ought carefully to observe in company; and if you do, you will be in little danger of committing any great or capital blunders. There are, besides, some other rules of less consequence; but these depend so much on the different humours and characters of different companies, that they must be left entirely to the suggestions of your own prudence and discretion. Please to make my kind compliments to your aunt and cousins. I ever am, Yours, &c.

PORTIA.

CARDS OF COMPLIMENT.

CARDS of Compliments should be short, easy, and consistent with politeness. They must begin with the title or style of the writer; and care must be taken immediately after to mention, in a respectful manner, the style or title of those to whom they are addressed; they must contain but one subject, and that should be expressed with elegance and perspicuity.

Miss Sprightly's respectful compliments to Mrs. Tissue, entreats the honour of her company this afternoon to a dish of tea.

Monday Morn.

Mrs. Tissue's compliments to Miss Sprightly, is happy to accept her agreeable invitation.

Monday Noon.

Mrs. Fleming's compliments to Miss Dyson, hopes she got safe home, and is in health, after the fatigue of sitting up so late.

Friday Morn.

Miss Dyson's compliments to Mrs. Fleming, got home perfectly safe, and is extremely

well; returns respectful thanks for her obliging inquiries.

Friday 2 o'clock.

Mr. Spangle's compliments to Mr. James Brilliant, should esteem it as a favour to be obliged with his company to take an airing to Hærem; the carriage to be at the door at three.

Thursday Noon.

Mr. James Brilliant's respectful compliments to Mr. Spangle; will be happy to attend him punctually at the time.

Thursday 1 o'clock.

Miss Guittar's compliments, should be glad of Miss Spinnet's company to pick a bit of dinner with her.

Wednesday 8 o'clock.

Miss Spinnet's compliments, will not fail to wait upon Miss Guittar.

Wednesday 10 o'clock.

Miss Sandford's compliments to Miss Smith, and hopes she has receiyed no injury from last night's adventure.

Friday 10 o'clock.

Miss Smith's compliments to Miss Sandford— received not the least injury, and got home perfectly safe.

Friday 5 o'clock.

Mrs. Shadewell's compliments to Miss Cloudy, should be glad of her agreeable company to pass the afternoon.

10 o'clock Morn.

Miss Cloudy's compliments to Mrs. Shadewell, cannot have the pleasure of accepting her agreeable invitation, being engaged in a party to the Museum.

11 o'clock Morn.

FORMS IN LAW.

Such as a Mortgage, a Letter of Licence,
Bonds, Indentures, &c.

A COMMON MORTGAGE OF AN ESTATE.

THIS Indenture made the day of in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and between of the first part, and of the second part, Witnesseth, That Whereas the said the Part of the first part by a certain Bond or Obligation, bearing date the day of in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and held and firmly bound unto the above named Part of the second part, in the sum of lawful money of the United States of America, with a Condition thereunder written for the payment of the Sum of lawful money as aforesaid, with the interest due and to grow due thereon, on or before the day of which will be in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and as by the said bond more fully may appear. And it is expressly declared and understood to be the true intent and meaning of the parties to these Presents, and to have been expressly agreed between them, that the sum mentioned in the Con-

dition of the said Bond, and the interest due and to grow due thereon, shall be paid unto the said Part of the second part, Executors, Administrators and Assigns, in good gold or silver coin only, and not in paper money, or Bills of Credit of any kind or description whatever, upon any occasion or pretence whatever: any Law or Laws hereafter to be made, or any Custom or Usage to the contrary thereof notwithstanding. Now therefore, this Indenture further witnesseth, That the said Part of the first part, for the better securing and more sure payment of the Sum mentioned in the Condition of the said Bond, according to the true intent and meaning thereof, and of these presents; And also, in consideration of One Dollar to in hand paid, by the said Part of the second part, at and before the ensealing and delivery of these Presents, the Receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged; Ha granted, bargained and sold, alienated, remised, released, conveyed, and confirmed, and by these presents Do grant, bargain, sell, alien, remise, release, convey and confirm unto the said Part of the second part, and to Heirs and Assigns for ever, All

Together with all and singular the rights, members, privileges, hereditaments and appurtenances thereunto belonging, or in any wise appertaining: And also, all the estate, right, title, interest, power, possession, claim, and demand

of the said Part of the first part, of, in or
to the same, and the reversion and reversions,
remainder and remainders, rents, issues, and
profits thereof. *To have and to hold*, the herein
before Granted Premises, with all and singular
the rights, members, privileges, hereditaments,
and appurtenances thereunto belonging, unto
the said Part of the second part, and to
Heirs and and Assigns, the sole and only proper
use, benefit and behoof of the said Part of
the second part, Heirs and Assigns for ever.
Provided always, Nevertheless, and it is the
true intent and meaning of the parties to these
Presents, that if the said Part of the first
part, Heirs, Executors, or Administrators,
shall well and truly pay unto the said Part
of the second part, Executors, Admini-
stators or Assigns, the sum mentioned in the
Condition of the aforesaid Bond, together with
the Interest due and to grow due thereon, and
the whole, that is to say both principal and in-
terest, in good Gold or Silver Coin only, and not
in paper Money, or Bills of Credit of any kind or
description whatever, according to the plain and
true intent and meaning of the said Bond, and
of these Presents, at the time specified for the
payment thereof, that then, and from thence-
forth, these presents and every thing therein
contained shall cease, determine and be abso-
lutely void: otherwise stand, be and remain in
full force, power, and virtue. *And* the said
Part of the first part, hereby authorise and fully

enpower the said Part of the second part, Heirs, Executors, or Administrators, and assigns, (if the said Part of the first part, Heirs Executors, or Administrators, shall neglect, delay, or refuse to pay the said sum mentioned in the condition of the said Bond, together with the interest due thereon, at the time specified for the payment thereof, according to the Tenor of the Condition of the Bond aforesaid) to enter into and upon all singular the Premises, hereby, granted or mentioned, or intended so to be, and the same to sell and convey in manner and form directly and required in and by the Act in such case made and provided ; and out of the money arising from such sale, to retain the principal and interest due on the said Bond at the time of such sale, and that in good Gold or Silver Coin, together with all the costs and charges of selling the before mentioned premises ; any right equity of redemption of the said part of the first part, Heirs or Assigns, of, in, or to the before mentioned premises, notwithstanding ; The said Part of the second part, Heirs, Executors Administrators, or Assigns, paying to the said Part of the first part, Executors or Administrators upon demand, the surplus (if any there shall be) of the Monies arising from such sale. *In Witness Whereof,* the parties to these presents, have hereunto interchangeably set their hands and seals, the day and year first above written.

A DEED.

THIS Indenture made the day of
in the year of our Lord one thousand eight
hundred and between

Witnessath,

That the said for and in consideration of
the sum of lawful money of the
United States of America, in hand paid, at or
before the ensealing and delivering of these
presents, by the said the receipt where-
of is hereby confessed and acknowledged; And
the said Heirs, Executors and Administrators,
for ever released and discharged from the same
by these Presents—Ha granted, bargained, sold,
aliened, remised, released, conveyed, assured,
enfeoffed, and confirmed; and by these presents
do grant, bargain, sell, alien, remise, release,
convey, assure, enfeoff, and confirm, fully,
freely, absolutely unto the said Heirs and
Assigns for ever, All

*Together with all and singular the appurtenances,
privileges and advantages whatsoever, unto the
said above mentioned and described premises in
any wise appertaining or belonging; and the
reversion or reversions, remainder and remain-
ders, events, issues and profits thereof; and also,
all the estate, right, title, interest, property,
claim and demand whatsoever, as well in law as
in equity of the said of, in and to the same,
and every part and parcel thereof, with the ap-
purtenances. To have and to hold the above*

granted, bargained and described premises, with the appurtenances, unto the said Heirs and Assigns, for their own proper use, benefit and behoof for ever. And the said for Heirs, Executors and Administrators, do covenant, promise, grant and agree, to and with the said Heirs and Assigns

That the above granted premises and every part and parcel thereof with the appurtenances, now are and for ever hereafter shall be and remain unto the said Heirs and Assigns, free and absolutely, clear, discharged and unincumbered of and from all former and other titles, charges estates or incumbrances of what nature and kind soever, had made, committed, done or suffered, or to be had, made, committed, done or suffered by the said Heirs and Assigns, or by any other person or persons whomsoever any thing having or claiming in the premises

And also, That the said and Heirs, and all and every other person or persons whomsoever, lawfully or equitably, deriving any estate, right, title or interest of, in or to the herein before granted premises, by, from, under or in trust for shall and will, at any time or times hereafter, upon the reasonable request of the said Heirs or Assigns, and at the proper costs and charges in the law, of the said Heirs or Assigns, make, do and execute, or cause and procure to be made, done

and executed, all and every such further and other lawful and reasonable conveyances, and assurances in the law, for the better and more effectually vesting and confirming the premises hereby intended to be granted, in and to the said ~~Heirs and assigns for ever, as by~~ the said ~~Heirs or Assigns, or~~ their counsel learned in the law, shall be reasonably devised, advised or required; And the said ~~for~~ ~~Heirs, Executors and Administrators,~~ will Warrant, and by these presents, for ever defend the above described and released premises, and every part and parcel thereof.

In Witness whereof, the parties to these presents have hereunto interchangeably set their hands and seals the day and year first above written.

*Signed, Sealed and delivered
in the Presence of*

A BOND.

KNOW all Men by these Presents, That ~~the~~ held and firmly bound unto ~~the~~ in the sum of lawful money of the United States of America, to be paid unto the said ~~Heirs, Executors, Administrators or Assigns;~~ for which pay-

ment, bind and Heirs, Executors, and Administrators jointly and severally, firmly by these Presents: Sealed with Seal, and Dated the day of in the Year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and

The Condition of the preceding Obligation is such, That if the above bounden Heirs, Executors, or Administrators, shall and do well and truly pay, or cause to be paid unto the above mentioned Executors, Administrators; or Assigns, the sum of lawful money as aforesaid, with lawful interest for the same, on or before the day of which will be in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and without fraud or delay, then the preceding Obligation to be void, otherwise to remain in full force and virtue.

*Sealed and delivered }
in the Presence of }*

A POWER OF ATTORNEY.

* **KNOW all Men by these Presents, That I have constituted, made and appointed, and by these Presents do constitute, make and appoint trusty and loving Friend true and lawful Attorney, for and in Name and stead, and to Use, to ask, demand, sue for, levy, recov-**

and receive, all Sum and Sums of Money, debts, Rents, Goods, Wares, Dues, Accounts, other demands whatsoever, which are or shall be due, owing, payable and belonging to or detained from in any manner of ways and Means whatsoever, by

irs, giving and granting unto said Attorney, by these Presents full and whole Power, Strength, Authority, in and about the premises, to sue, and take all lawful Ways and Means Name, for the recovery thereof; and upon receipt of any such Debts, Dues, or Sums of Attorney aforesaid, Acquittance or other sufficient discharges, for and in Name to make, and deliver; and generally all and every other Act and acts, Thing and things, Device devices, in the Law whatsoever, needful necessary to be done in and about the Premises, for, and in Name to do, execute, and form, as largely and amply, to all Intents Purposes, as might or could do, if personally present, or as the Matter requires more special Authority than is herein given; Attorneys one or more under for the purpose aforesaid, to make and constitute, and join at Pleasure to revoke; ratify, allowing, holding for firm and effectual, all and whatever said Attorney shall lawfully do in and about the Premises, by virtue hereof.

In Witness Whereof, have hereunto set Hand and Seal, the day of in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and and of the Independence of the United States of America, the twenty Year.

*Sealed and Delivered }
in the Presence of : }*

AN APPRENTICE'S INDENTURE.

THIS Indenture Witnesseth, That Now aged by and with the consent of hath put himself, and by these presents doth voluntarily, and of his own free Will and Accord, put himself Apprentice to to learn the Art, Trade and Mystery of and after the manner of an Apprentice, to serve from the day of the date hereof, for and during, and until the full end and term of next ensuing: During all which time, the said Apprentice, his Master faithfully shall serve, his Secrets keep, his lawful commands every where readily obey: He shall do no damage to his said Master, nor see it done by others, without letting or giving Notice thereof to his said Master: He shall not waste his said Master's

Goods, nor lend them unlawfully to any : he shall not commit Fornication nor contract Matrimony within the said Term : At Cards, Dice, or any other unlawful Game, he shall not play, whereby his said Master may have Damage : With his own Goods, nor the Goods of others, without Licence from his said Master, he shall neither buy nor sell : He shall not absent himself Day nor Night from his said Master's Service, without his leave ; nor haunt Ale-houses, Taverns, or Play-houses ; but in all things behave himself as a faithful Apprentice ought to do, during the said term. And the said Master shall use the utmost of his endeavours to teach or cause to be taught, or instructed, the said Apprentice, in the Trade or Mystery of . And procure and provide for him sufficient Meat, Drink, fit for an Apprentice, during the said term of

And for the true Performance of all and singular the Covenants and Agreements aforesaid, the said parties bind themselves, each unto the other, firmly by these presents.

In Witness whereof, the said parties have interchangeably set their Hands and Seals hereunto: Dated the Day of in the Year of the Independence of the United States of America, and in the

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An Apprentice's Indenture,

Year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and

Sealed and Delivered in the Presence of

OFFICIAL TITLES.

The Usual style of Address, for the principal Public Officers, in the United States, is as follows, viz:

THE PRESIDENT of the UNITED STATES is sometimes addressed by that appellation only — The most customary style of addressing him is, — His Excellency the President of the United States; or, His Excellency the President.

The same may be observed of the Vice-President of the United States, mutatis mutandis; or, he may be addressed, his Excellency A. B. Esq. Vice-President of the U. States.

Members of Congress; A. B.—, Esq.; Senator, or C. D—, Esq.—Member of the House of Representatives; or, C. D. Esq. M^r. H. R. (i. e. Member of the House of Representatives.)

The Secretary of the Senate—S. A. O—, Esq. Secretary of the Senate.

The Clerk of the House of Representatives—J. B—, Esq. Clerk, H. R.

Ambassadors, and Foreign Ministers, have the title of Excellency.

Judges of the Superior Courts—The Honourable A. B—, Esq. Chief Justice of — [mutatis mutandis.]

The Ministers of the Great Departments of the Federal Government—The Honourable A. B—, Esq. Secretary of the Treasury, &c. &c.

The Governors or Presidents of the State Governments, have the title of Excellency.

Deputy Governors or Vice-Presidents of the State Governments, The Honourable.

Members of the State Legislature—Esq.

The Governor of the Western Territory—His Excellency.

Judges of Inferior Courts, Counsellors at Law, Prothonotaries, County Lieutenants of the Militia, Collectors, Naval Officers, and Surveyors in the Departments of the Customs, and all the principal Commissioned Officers in the United States, are styled Esq.

Bishops in the United States—The Right Rev. B. M—, D. D. Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church, in the State of — &c.

Other Clergymen—The Rev. J. L—, D. D. or The Rev. Dr. C—; or, The Rev. Mr. D—; or, The Rev. T. R—, Rector of —, Pastor of —, [mutatis mutandis.]

Professors in the Universities and Colleges

—G. ——, D. D. Professor of —, in
the University of —; Professor T. —;
Mr. Professor.

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